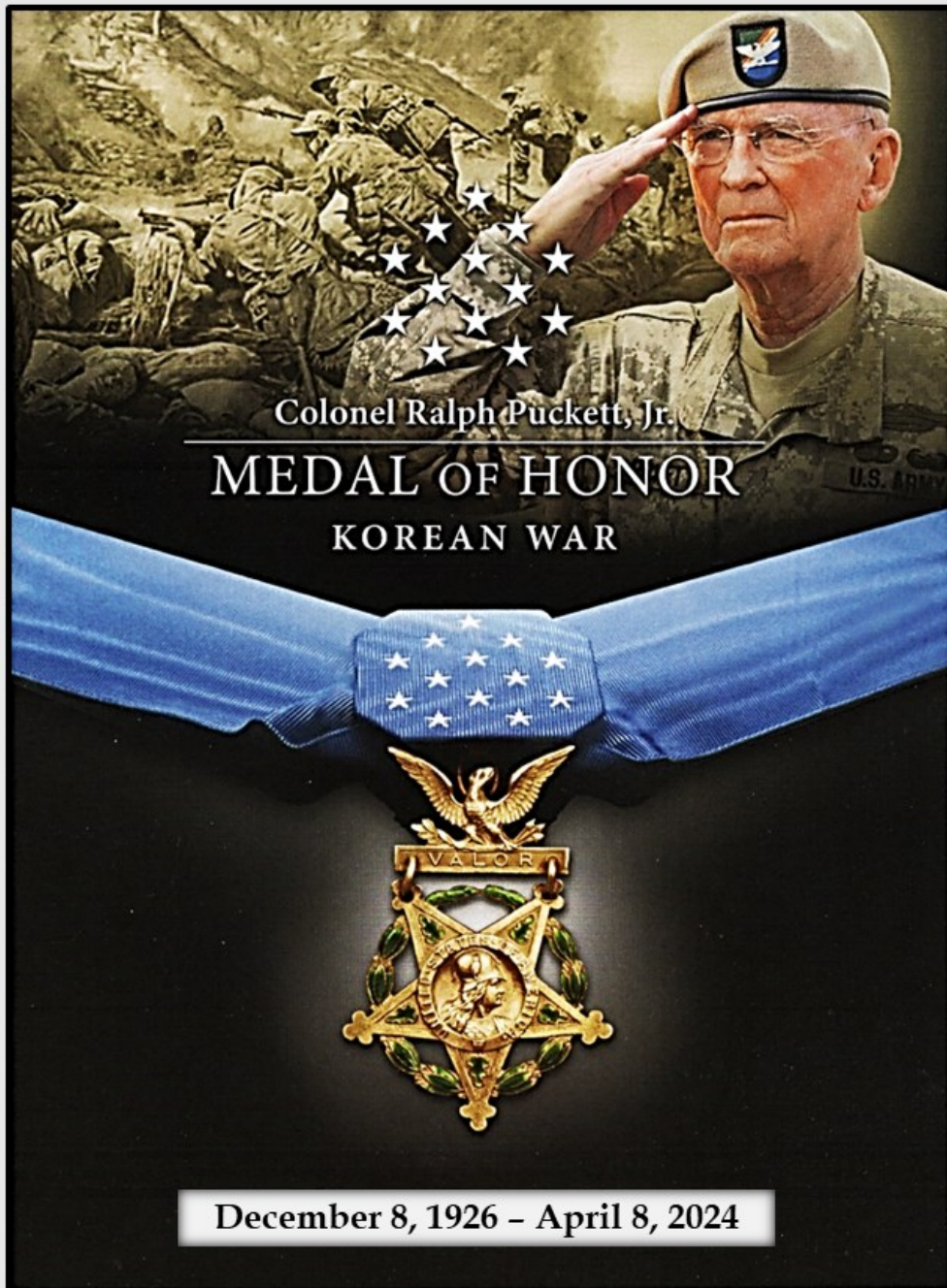


PATROLLING

June 2024 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 36 Issue II



courtesy National Infantry Museum & National Infantry Association

*And when our work is done, our course on Earth is run, may it be said,
"Well Done, Be Thou at Peace"*

Six Korean War veterans honored by "Little Angels" during world peace performance commemorating 60th anniversary of the Korean War

by Anet editor Jonnie Melillo Clasen

Three Rangers were among six Korean War veterans presented with medals by the Little Angels following their spectacular performance at the Columbus River Center.

The performance was part of a 16-nation tour commemorating the June 25, 1950, anniversary of the Korean War.

LTC Ooyong Jung, Maneuver Center of Excellence Korean Army liaison officer said the June 27, 2010, event depicts South Korea's 5,000-year history. The Little Angels tour is one of many ways South Korea continues to say, "Thank you to veterans" answering a call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.

"Korea will never forget those UN soldiers' sacrifices and will be forever grateful to those countries that came to our aid, especially when our national life was at stake."



CAPTION (L-R) – The six Korean War veterans who received medals from the Little Angels in Columbus are former secretary of the Army Howard H. "Bo" Callaway, LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel, COL. Ralph Puckett, CSM Charles "Chuck" F. Waters, MSG Joe Roy and MSG Vincent Melillo. The founder and director of the Little Angels, Bo Hi Pak, stands in front.

also presented with a medal by the "Little Angels." Ferriter addressed the audience, thanking the Little Angels, who ranged from 9 to 15 years old, and the people of South Korea for the performance honoring America's Korean War veterans.



The Columbus event had special significance for Bo Hi Pak, founder and director of the Little Angels. A retired Korean Army lieutenant colonel, Pak studied officer leadership at Ft. Benning in 1950.

Pak said the six men receiving medals represented US soldiers who "came to the aid of South Korea." They include former Secretary of the Army, Howard H. "Bo" Callaway; LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel; COL Ralph Puckett; CSM Charles "Chuck" F. Waters, MSG Joe Roy, and MSG Vincent Melillo. Puckett, Waters and Melillo, a Merrill's Marauder, are Rangers.

MG Michael Ferriter, Ft. Benning commanding general and a Ranger, was

CAPTION (Left clockwise) - The Little Angels perform the dazzling Fan Dance at the Columbus River Center. LTC Ooyong Jung, Korean Army Liaison officer for the Maneuver Center of Excellence, stands beside his wife, Kyungmi Jang, and daughter, Christina, both in traditional Korean dress. A composite of Korean War images was part of a "Korean War 60th Anniversary" booklet given to members of the audience.



Editor's Corner



*Raven crew with CSM Heflin and Stephen Johnson- pre-flight photo 2024 BRC
Justin Stay photo*

This was my first ride in a Black Hawk helicopter. I was really impressed with the crew and Rangers who, for this flight, fast-roped onto a building as part of the BRC. The insertion was so fast that I was unable to get a good picture. I relied on photos from the Public Affairs and the old cliché, *wait until next year*. I'll be better prepared.

Amanda Neet is no longer editor of *Patrolling* and we thank and wish her the best.

So here I am, the old guy, retaking the reins of *Patrolling*. The magazine itself is a collaborative of stories and events that involve the whole Ranger community and then some. If there is another Ranger out there that would like to become the editor, please let me or the president of the Association (Art Attaway) know. From the bylaws, the president appoints the editor of *Patrolling* and also the webmaster. I would never stand in the way of improving *Patrolling*. Until that happens, you are stuck with me.



Blair Brown, of the NRMF sent me a note with this humorous photo

There are some great reads in this issue so enjoy! *Editor-Stephen Odin Johnson*

RLTW

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The opinions expressed by the Officers, Unit Directors, Editor and other writers are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression or position of the Association.

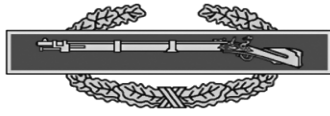
Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs, and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that is in bad taste, offensive, or discredits unnecessarily an individual or group.

Deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November for the four yearly issues of March, June, September, and December respectively.

POSTMASTER

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WHO WE ARE: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501©19 corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

2. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish *fel-
lowship of the Special Operations ranger community by re-
cruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently
separated Rangers to become members. The association pro-
vides a special "No Cost Membership" to all personnel while
assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.*

3. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, 3rd, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, succes-
sor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

- V Corp (LRRP)
- VII Corp (LRRP)
- 9th Inf. Div (LRRP)
- 25th Inf. Div (LRRP)
- 196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
- 1st Cav. Div. (LRRP)
- 1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- 4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- 101st Abn. Div. 1st Bde. (LRRP)
- 199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
- 173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)
- 3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

- Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.
- Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.
- Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.

Section 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

- Co F (LRP) 52nd Infantry
- Co C (LRP) 58th Infantry
- Co E (LRP) 58th Infantry
- Co F (LRP) 58th Infantry
- 70th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 71st Infantry DET (LRP)
- 74th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 78th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 79th Infantry DET (LRP)
- Co. D (LRP) 151st Infantry
- Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.



WHAT WE DO: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association participants in a variety of events that support our members and the active duty regiment. Each event is reviewed by the Board of Officers for merit and how it will promote the Association. Our current projects include; awarding scholarships (to qualified individuals) through our coordination and with the support of the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Foundation. We also provide support to the Best Ranger Competition and any other events the officers regard as beneficial to the associa-
tion ethos.

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Rang-
er Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The associa-
tion officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secre-
tary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association
business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort
Moore, GA
Subordinate units hold off-year reunions at various locations
across the United States per their unit schedule

Presidents

1986-1988	Bob Gilbert
1988-1990	Billy Nix
1990-1992	Bob Gilbert
1992-1994	Roy Nelson (resigned)
	Milton Lockett (resigned)
	Duke Dushane (selected by Directors)
1994-1996	Roy Barley
1996-1998	Rick Ehrler
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
2004-2005	Emmet Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen
2009-2011	John Chester
2011-2013	Joe Little
2013-2015	Bill Anton
2015-2019	Richard Barela
2019-2021	Stephen Johnson
2021-	Art "Doc" Attaway

SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

- 1st Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
- 2nd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
- 3rd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1984
- 75th Ranger Regiment HHC Company, activated in 1984
- 75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007
- 75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion, activated in 2017

SECTION 7: Long Range Surveillance: Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element, that was de-
ployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3, or 4.

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O/75-78th LRP

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Unit Director
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ART "DOC" ATTAWAY

Rangers, Still to Come in 2024:

We will have the **50th Reunion of the 2nd Ranger Battalions**, and the **40th anniversary and reunion of the 3rd Ranger Battalion and the 75th Ranger Regiment**. Honoring all Regimental Rangers and our heritage, lineage, and "Esprit de Corps." The 75th Ranger Regiment Association will have senior officer representation at all of these events.



West. Over 2 years ago 75th RRA Past President Steve Johnson started an initiative to obtain the Tab for the Vietnam era LRRP Companies. This was met with some serious headwinds and stalled, but the perseverance of Mike Hall finally took it to the point of trying to move forward. This is now in a state of request and is in no way guaranteed, but we wanted you to know the effort is being made. Thanks Mike and Travis!

Ranger Rendezvous will be held in Columbus, GA 23-28JUN24. This will be a full-blown Rendezvous with the Regimental CoC, static displays and operations demonstrations, the Distinguished Member of the Regiment, Ranger Hall of Fame, and meal gatherings. The Association will host a Hospitality Room on Wednesday, 25MAY24, at the Downtown Marriott. Active Duty Rangers will be invited.

ALL Rangers are invited to this Rendezvous, check our website

For a schedule of events (add link to the events agenda that should be on our website by now??)

Our **Mission Statement** is now revised and updated to represent our current mission as an Association.

The 75th RRA Mission Statement:

The new mission statement will be added to our website.

We lost **Ranger legend and MOH recipient, Colonel Ralph Puckett**. After "Lying in State" in Washington, DC, he was interned at a family plot in Columbus in April of 2024. A well-attended Celebration of Life took place earlier that morning at the National Infantry Museum Parade Field. I was able to represent the 75th RRA and issued our respect. We also lost the wife of General (RET) David Grange Sr. and mother of General (RET) David Grange Jr. and had her memorial at the Chapel on Ft. Moore, followed by a graveside ceremony at Ft. Mitchell, Alabama. Our condolences were extended personally to General (RET) David Grange Jr. during the Memorial.

Newsletters have begun to provide more timely and current information dissemination, and keep membership updated and informed about ongoing and dynamic activities. No schedule has been established and they are just being sent as needed immediately after a topic of interest arises. Please open and read them!

VN LRRP Co's Ranger Tab effort has progressed, thanks to RCSM (RET) Mike Hall and Past President of USARA, Travis

Patrolling Magazine has revived our outside advertising program to conduct fundraising for the association. Don't forget, if you know of a company that would benefit from being represented in our community, please link up with Tom Sove (tsove@sbcglobal.net).

Ranger Peter Parker

Past President of the 75th RRA, Rick Barela, is **honoring Ranger Peter Parker** in this issue, after we lost Peter to the Great Ranger in the Sky. His estate, at his prior request, made a significant donation to the Association. Thanks Ranger Parker. Read Rick's article!

The last few months have been a whirlwind with the 50th Reunion of the 1/75th Battalion being stood up, Best Ranger Competition, RHOF voting committee, the Ralph Puckett Col and Memorial, The Grange Memorial, the monthly Ranger Base gathering at Florabama in Gulf Shores Alabama, where I had the honor of hanging with General (RET) Joe Stringham, the 2nd RCO of the 75th Ranger Regiment during the 1980's, and most recently I attended the annual water jump for Ranger veterans at Lake Dora, FL. I have jumped for the past 2 years but gave up my slot to an active-duty Ranger this year! Check out the Hard Rock Charlie Foundation on Facebook. There is FOX news coverage of the jump.

I hope to see all of you at upcoming events! Let's have good representation at Rendezvous 2024. Godspeed Rangers!

Art Attaway

RLTW!

On April 8, 2024, Colonel Ralph Puckett, Jr., passed away peacefully at the age of 97 in his home in Columbus, Georgia.

Many associate death with grief, and while we will all mourn in our own way the passing of Colonel Ralph Puckett, Jr., I would like to think that those of us who knew him well will smile as we reflect on a life that not only touched us all but, more importantly, left us a better person for having known him for his was a life not only exceptional in deed but, more importantly, a life uniquely well lived.

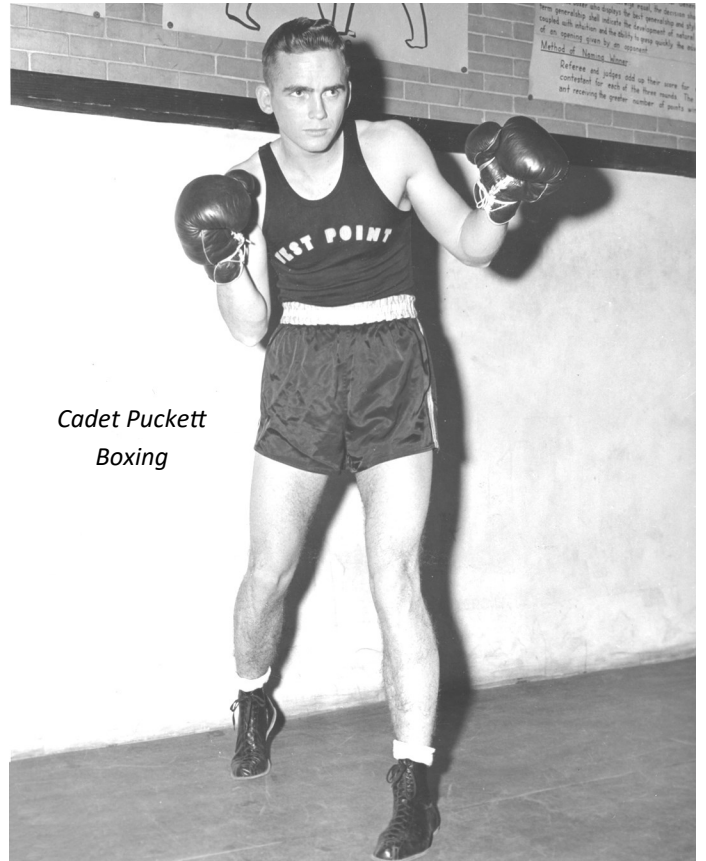
Many will say that Colonel Puckett “led by example.” I would rather say that Colonel Puckett “lived by example,” the difference being that ‘leading by example’ can be defined as modeling the actions and behaviors one wants others to see and emulate, while ‘living by example’ reflects one’s beliefs via actions and daily life, meaning always doing what you are supposed to do, when you are supposed to do it, even if no one is there to see.

Professionally, Colonel Puckett was known by the nom de guerre, “The Ranger.” It was not a moniker he chose for himself; it was one earned and bestowed on him by others. It was a moniker earned because he remained true to the basics which, for him, started with “You can always do better” and “Be there.” If there were a single phrase to capture his spirit, it would be, “He brought it every day.”

He brought it on the field of battle in Vietnam when the resolve of battle-weary Soldiers would stiffen with the mere knowledge that ‘The Ranger’ was with them. He brought it every day by being a social trendsetter and selecting in a recently desegregated military two African Americans in 1950 to serve with him in an elite unit and later, in 2015, quelling rumblings when the first two women graduated Ranger School by simply stating, “They met the standards. They are Rangers.” And, he brought it from 1996 – 2008, as the Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment, by not only participating in numerous Regimental field training exercises in CONUS, Alaska and Korea, but by also visiting his Rangers in Iraq, and even celebrating his 80th birthday in Afghanistan as they fought the Global War on Terror. He brought it every day, literally mentoring and influencing hundreds, if not thousands over the past decades.

When I reflect on who the Colonel was and what he represented, the image that comes to mind from the 30+ years my wife, Judy, and I have been blessed to know the Pucketts, is not of the White House ceremony, impressive awards nor the overwhelming number of ribbons, badges and patches on his uniform, as striking as they are. Instead, it is a singular image, a picture taken at the Pentagon the day prior to the White House Medal of Honor ceremony. Though being honored by the Secretary, Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major of the Army, what did this picture capture? It caught the 94-year-old Colonel in the corner of the room, speaking one on one with an enlisted waiter. Those of us who know the Colonel, know well that given the choice between a General or a Private to talk to, to mentor, “The Ranger” would always seek out the Private, first.

Much of Colonel Puckett’s service can be captured in what I call ‘Colonel Puckett stories,’ for it seems that the vast majority of us



Cadet Puckett
Boxing

who’ve been honored to know “The Ranger” have such a vignette. Whether unexpectedly encountering the Colonel checking on us during a training exercise in the dark of night, offering career guidance in a taxi on the way to the airport or saying “Hello” as he boarded a C-141 on its way to Afghanistan, the experience was unforgettably ingrained in one’s memory.

While there are many such stories I could regale you with, there is one, in particular, that stands out among the best. Following the White House ceremony, my wife and I were honored to represent the Pucketts for the Colonel’s induction into The Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes. There I was in the front row, a former 17-year-old Private, a PV1, with four recipients to my left, another, Sergeant Major Pat Payne, to my right, and me representing “The Ranger,” sitting there, muttering a mantra to myself, “Lock, you may be with the boys but you ain’t one of the boys!”



To the family of Col. Ralph Puckett Jr. -
He distinguished himself in his exceptional service to his Country -
to provide love of peace - a first treatment patient
Ralph Puckett

LTC Puckett Vietnam - POTUS present DSC

Continued on the next page

That fact would shortly, thereafter, be confirmed for sitting to my immediate left was Major John Duffy, Special Forces, Vietnam, and, damn it, he, too, had a story to tell. It was 1960 and Sergeant Duffy was assigned to Bad Tölz, West Germany, where he was being trained as a Green Beret. At one point, he was taken aside by one of the instructors, a Major, who advised the young NCO to seek a commission and offered guidance on how to prepare for it. It was advice that he followed; advice that would eventually lead him to be sitting next to me ... or, more properly, me sitting next to him. That Major? Detachment Commander, Ralph Puckett. One Recipient offering career guidance to another future Recipient. A 'Forrest Gump' moment. Can't make that up.

Life can be defined as a collection of stories, both big and small, of those people we've touched and been touched by along the way. Of moments, the importance of which may not have been obvious at the time – can you say, "Major Duffy?" The Ancient Egyptians believed that we all die twice. The first is when we take our last breath. The second is when our name and stories are no longer told. If it is true that our lives in the end are conveyed by our stories, then Colonel Puckett will continue to live as his stories resonate through the years.

While many will focus on the Colonel's professional career, we would be remiss if we were not to comment on his family. "The Ranger" would be the first to admit his success was a team effort that included his beautiful bride of 71 years, Jeannie. As one can imagine, she, too, has plenty of such stories but I've found the one most endearing to be when she was asked to speak to some West Point seniors who were planning on getting married after graduation. During the question-and-answer session at the end, a cadet bravely asked, "Mrs. Puckett, have you ever contemplated divorce?" Jeannie paused for a few moments, before responding "Divorce? No. Murder? Yes."

From the start, the Pucketts were a perfectly matched couple. The protection, care and love conveyed to the very end by Jeannie, at the age of 91, for her 97-year-old husband, was obvious to all.

That said, I know the feelings were mutual, as conveyed to me by an exchange with COL Puckett in 2020 about, of all things, a poem by Edgar Allan Poe called 'Anabelle Lee,' considered by

many to be one of the greatest love poems of all time. A poem of life, death, and eternal love that reflected his feelings for his wife, Jeannie, his Anabelle Lee. Who'd have thought that one of the Army's most decorated Soldiers of valor would still be a lovestruck softie to his final days?

So, in the end, how would the Colonel want to be remembered? As a husband and as a father are a given. But how would he want to be remembered professionally?

I believe the answer can be found in his initial commissioned assignment when he was selected as a Second Lieutenant to command a newly formed Ranger Company that included two of his classmates; two classmates who had recommended him for the command position. Colonel Ralph Puckett was a leader.

There are many characteristics that define leadership but most significant is Trust, a virtue granted by one on another as a function of it having been earned. The Colonel lived the example, he lived standards, he lived leadership, and, as a result, he earned everyone's trust. It was a trust that made a monumental difference to all who knew him. It is a trust that's established a legacy for others to emulate.

And, to honor his legacy, we need to do more than simply speak tributes and make dedications in his name. If we really wish to honor "The Ranger," to be of value to the nation, to society as he was, we should commit ourselves to being more like the

Colonel, of demonstrating a joy, a celebration for life that is embedded in a passion for people, whether it's a private on a ridge line in a blizzard, an enlisted waiter in the Pentagon or the President of the United States.

Show an interest, treat them all the same and seek to leave them a little better for having spent time talking with you. It is an easy, yet powerful, way to honor the Colonel's legacy.



In the end, it was never about medals, citations, awards, or recognition. It was not about rank, position or prestige. It was always about his Rangers, his Soldiers. He has left a legacy that may be equaled by few but surpassed by none. And because of that, we're not just better Soldiers, Rangers, and Warriors because of him, we are better people for having known him.

Rangers Lead the Way, Sir!



It is with a heavy heart that I bring forward the passing of Ranger Peter Parker. Why am I writing this? Well, Pete made a huge donation to the 75th Ranger Regiment upon his passing in the amount of \$125,000.00. Pete was born Stephen Parker, but he was

came a business coach and IT consultant.

One of his enduring legacies was creating “The Lost Patrol,” which was an annual get together of former Rangers mostly 2nd batt but open to all Rangers. He was an active member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and at one time volunteered his skills to publish the *Patrolling Magazine*. Sadly, that never came to fruition.

Peter was a plank holder but arriving in the 2nd Battalion in 1975. Pete came to the battalion in February of 1975 and was assigned to C Co and was an assistant machine gunner. He received a slot at Ranger School in March of 1976 and returned to

the company with the coveted Ranger Tab on his shoulder. He assumed his duties on a gun team and then became the machine gunner. One thing about Pete: he did love the M-60 machine gun. He once told me “*Happiness is a 6 to 9 round burst*”. Eventually, Pete was moved over to the C Co. arms room. This was the best kept arms room in the battalion. He was especially focused on the crew served weapons (M 60 machineguns, 60mm Mortars and 90mm Recoilless Rifles) as he understood they provided the heavy fire power for the unit. His expertise with all the weapons was extraordinary and the other armorers in the battalion and even across the 9th Infantry Division would come to him for guidance and information. Pete was always willing to help everyone, especially Rangers in the battalion.

I was able to contact Buck Royale, Rod Hafemeister, Rich Wills, Tom Smithlin, and Jose Torres who served with Pete back in the day. They all stated the same thing. “Pete was one hell of a Ranger but

was a comedian and loved to play pranks.” They relayed a couple of stories about Pete that I found interesting; From Rich Wills who was assigned to 3rd Platoon C Co, and they sent him down to the supply room to pick up a box of grid squares and prop wash for a jump that night. Pete and Rich cut up an old map into grid squares and put them in a box and marked it grid squares. Rich took it back to the squad and they all got a big laugh out of it. Rich informed me that he and Pete were going to meet but sadly Pete had passed away and they never got to link up again.

Continued on the next page



nicknamed “Peter” Parker in the Rangers and the name stuck; he finally caved and legally changed his name to match his Ranger-given Spiderman identity. He served in C Company 2nd Bn (Ranger) 75th Inf from February 1975 to February 1979.

After leaving the military, Pete went to college and studied computer programming and digital electronics. Pete was multi-faceted, working in computer science and sales. He built his own alarm company known as “Excel Systems and Solutions,” which became highly successful in Southern California. He later be-

I first met Pete in 1978 when I came in and was assigned to the C Company 2nd Bn (Ranger) 75th Inf Supply Sgt. This was actually before the formation of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Pete was the acting Supply Sgt and was trying to prepare for the Inspector General Inspection and a change of command for C Co. The IG inspection was for the entire battalion and the 1st to ensure we were complying with all regulations. A bunch of jumping through the hoops. Pete stated the supply room was a mess and really didn't know where to start. Pete and I sat down and developed a plan to get us



through the inspection and also the change of command. Pete did a lot of the heavy lifting as I went through the files and got all the paperwork updated. We got rid of quite a lot of junk that should have been turned in over the 3 yrs. the battalion was active. In the end we passed with flying colors. Pete was one of those true hard-working Rangers who wasn't afraid to get his hands dirty and get down in the bowels to get things done. Pete left the military in Feb 79.

The next time I ran into Pete was when I attended the 75th RRA reunion in Tacoma, Washington. It was like old home week, and we talked about our time in 2nd Bn and what we had

done since leaving the battalion. He was active in his endeavors, and we stayed in touch, but it was intermittently. When I got the word, that Pete had passed, it was like losing another brother.

One thing that never changed with Pete was his love of the unit and his desire for the unit to stay head and shoulders above all other units in the Army in every possible aspect. He felt that Rangers were family and always strived to live by the Ranger Creed.

Let us all take this time to say a small prayer to our departed Ranger Peter Parker. May the Big Ranger in the Sky welcome him home with these words. ***“Well Done My Good and Faithful Ranger. Look At What You Have Created During Your Mortal Life and Be Proud. Join Your Fellow Rangers in Green Pastures and Drink from the Fountain of the Ranger Brotherhood.”***



Rangers Lead the Way Pete Parker!!

The Random and Somewhat Scattered Thoughts of a Gold Star Ranger Mom

MY LIFE BEFORE 08Aug11

Now where should I begin??? I grew up in a small town in New Jersey—Pitman barely a mile in either direction. A dry town—yep Jersey still has a few of them, but Pitman just turned wet in 2020. I got to travel the world with a small airline that did group vacations and military charters. I met Sandro Plutino, got married and had two children, Brennarae and Alessandro aka Sandrino. Both loved sports and being able to run around the town with friends. Everyone knew everyone else, so we always knew where the kids were. Spent summers at the Jersey shore and winters in the Poconos, Brennarae skied and Sandrino boarded. They were both Junior Instructors and adult instructors. Brennarae was headed to college, Sandrino the military, but his junior year he decided he might give college a try because he loved wrestling, he made it clear that the military was his goal though. Then came 9/11 and my world fractured. I think of that day now as the first nail in my son's coffin. As soon as he could, Sandrino came home with the intention of enlisting. As luck would have it, he went to see his wrestling coach (a Marine) who talked him down saying it was going to be a long war and he should stay in school for now. Sandrino did stay in school, but the day after graduation he went to enlist in the Marines. They did not want him because he had had a bankart fracture of his shoulder although it had been surgically repaired. His assistant college coach had been a Ranger and so that is where he headed next. The Army accepted him with a shoulder waiver and a Ranger contract. On 02Aug2006 at 0530 after a crazy night partying at a Buffett concert with family and friends, the Army took him away. He hated MEPS and couldn't wait to start training. He sailed through AIT and OSUT – he loved everything about it. Then came ABN. Christmas break and then RIP—Apparently, he got a choice of where he went—WE picked Savannah and 1/75. So, off our caravan went, mom, dad, sis, aunt, uncle, best friends, and girlfriend plus her family—just in time for St Patrick's Day. What a graduation party! I met some of his buddies and his Sgt who assured me that Sandrino would not go outside the fence till he was ready. They deployed on 08Apr2007. To where I did not know until I got the letter from the Battalion with his address. I am not sure if I breathed or slept for the next 90 days.

I got the call he was arriving home. We all went to the airport with welcome home signs and balloons, I can still see him coming down the steps in his jeans, yellow fleece, tims and his Cal hat. He had a know-it-all grin on his face as his long legs brought him closer to us. He forgave us for the signs and balloons, but he didn't like the fanfare, after all he was only doing his job. We



enjoyed every minute of those two weeks, but then it was time to go again. And so it began, the months away and the months back home, three in three out until it changed to four and four. The years dragged on until it was time for him to be done, but Sandrino had business to finish, he extended to go on a 6-month deployment. The one he did not return from. He called me before he

had to “go to work” making sure his car insurance and phone was turned on. Told me he loved me and get his bed ready. He had not been able to reach Natalie, so he asked me to make sure she knew he had tried to call and that he loved her and would see her soon. He was killed about 2hrs later.

MY LIFE AFTER 08Aug2011

From that moment on my life has been something between a nightmare and a fog that surrounds me. Through it all 1/75 and the Regiment was with us. So many Rangers and families made the journey to Jersey for his funeral. We have been included in the workings of the battalion, the balls, the ceremonies, remembrance cards and WODs. Sandee Rouse brought me into the Ranger Gold Star family. Shelia Dudley has made sure we are invited to all these events. Sua Sponte and 3Rangers have us on speed dial too. I have met GS Moms from all the battalions. I feel like we are this mighty mini army, ready to assist Rangers or their families whenever and wherever we are needed. I volunteer at the USO and am on the Families of the Fallen team. I have gone on the Wreaths Across America convoy from Maine to Arlington and to lay wreaths at the American Cemeteries in Europe. Honoring Sandrino's Sacrifice Fund, Inc is a family and friend operated 501©3 organization that has a golf outing each year to raise money for other groups that assist injured Rangers or families as well as supporting Pitman youth sports. I have done things I had never even thought I was capable of doing (i.e., Helo Hog Hunting) I wonder what he must be thinking—like is he thinking What the Heck??? Or Way to Go Ma??

In SUMMATION

My Dad's brother was Lost at Sea during WWII, so I grew up in a Gold Star Family. I sat with my Grandmom and the other Pitman Gold Star Moms as they spoke of their sons and sewed bandages for the veteran's home. I know that my Grandmom never got closure for her loss. I got to see Sandrino, I got to say Good-Bye.

Every story has an ending, mine does too. When Sandrino's squad returned from Afghanistan, they came up to pay their respects. One of them took a fancy to my daughter. They married after 3 dates and a deployment. 1SG Bryan Jensen, Brennarae, Brayden 11, Carmella 8 and Gabby 5 are still at 1/75. I feel very much at home there too.



Here is the report on my trip to Ft Moore.

I was honored to be part of 3 productive meetings.

The first was with you, the board, on Wednesday morning. I asked if Sheila Dudley could sit in for some insight into how to get further exposure to potential new members. In addition to the new means of exposure the board has already been using. She suggested using other formats that are used more today besides just the website. I came away very encouraged about the revitalization of the 75th RRA. Thank you all for your time and patience with me and for teaching me the difference between an organization and a foundation. Also, for those that didn't attend the Hall of Fame, Rick hit it out of the park when he spoke about the 75th RRA during his speech for Terry Rodrick.

Way to go, Sir!

Moving onto my meeting on Wed afternoon with the Regimental Chaplin and all the Battalion chaplains as well as their assistants. They were extremely interested in how because of the 75th RRA the Rangers are the only Regiment with their own Gold Star program and Regimental Facebook page. That page has 235 Gold Star family members on it.

I explained to them that even though they didn't know most of the members nor do they have the personal connection to them that the Chains that were in place when their Rangers died, they are still the umbilical cord to our Rangers and battalions.

I gave them each a Patrolling and told them I am having a different family member write the GS article and that may be a good



way for them to get a sampling of the families they are serving.

One of them said, "Oh we have a stack of these." I looked at him and said, "Really?" He immediately said, "Oh never mind." So, I need to follow up or maybe the unit directors should on why Patrolling is sitting in a stack.

The 3rd meeting was Thursday morning when I had the honor to meet Col. Obhoe the new RCO. What a class act. He was pretty much aware of the program since, unbeknown to me, he was dialed in on the video conference call I had several months ago with the officers and chaplains. (Thank you Col Vanek).

He asked what he could do. I told him he was now the Guardian of our precious families. He should just take care of our Rangers and the chaplains, and I would manage the families. If a major issue comes up, we will let him know.

I showed him the FB page. Told him Chaplin Jump would get him on it. He looked through it then said, "This is good, but we need to do more." I will follow up on that after he gets settled in.

So, there you have it.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be a part of your gang.

It's an honor!

RLTW

Sandee



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Completing the mission against all odds: heavily outnumbered, history-making trek, difficult terrain, leeches, dysentery, inadequate rations, and tropical diseases

From late February until early August 1944, the Marauders fought the formidable Japanese 18th Division while being heavily outnumbered the entire time, sometimes 10 to 1. Trekking nearly 1,000 miles, they made military history by walking farther than any other WWII combat unit. This trek was behind enemy lines, much of it during monsoon season, and they had to establish their own paths while hacking through dense jungles and negotiating mountainous terrain. They were supplied only by what they could carry on their backs, pick up from periodic air drops, and pack on mules and horses.

While they were still in India, Hamler, as did many of the men, helped train the mules and horses to swim. He said initially many of the animals did not want to go into the water. But, it was crucial that they learned. While in Burma, in addition to fighting, Hamler cared for one of his unit's horses (which was second nature because of his prior experience), loaded it with supplies, and led it as they advanced. While following one particular path in Burma, he recalls his unit crossing a river 20 times on the same day because that was the route the path took. Fortunately, the animals had been appropriately trained for this and followed along.

Hamler also remembers one time in particular when he was leading a mule across a river because, as they were emerging from the water onto land, the mule slipped and fell on top of him. Fortunately, Hamler was not injured. He said his buddies just pulled him out from underneath the mule, and everyone kept moving forward.

On a related note, Hamler's son, Jeffrey, recalls his father talking about what happened to films and pictures taken of his unit while in Burma. According to Hamler, they were lost because they were packed on the mules and then ruined when the mules slipped and fell into the water during river crossings.



Soldiers crossing a river enroute to Walabum, the site of the first major battle- Feb 1944; During dry season, the water level is low. The trails crossed the rivers constantly. At times, the same river had to be crossed 40 to 50 times in one day. From <http://www.marauder.org/>

As they crossed streams and rivers, which Hamler said were usually not deeper than chest high, the men hoped neither they nor the animals would pick up leeches. But, that did occur. Hamler said one day something was bothering his leg after they crossed a river. "I pulled up my pant leg and found a three-inch-long leech," he said. "It was all full of my blood. I just pushed it off and kept going." Other soldiers burned off leeches with lit cigarettes or used a Burmese hill-tribe formula that contained quicklime, kerosene, and tobacco juice.

Hamler also recalls frequently contending with "bugs that bored into your arms." He said, "I just pulled them out and threw them away."

Being bitten by jungle insects was a widespread issue among the soldiers and animals alike. And, the "bugs that bored" into Hamler's arms may have been black flies, referred to by the locals as Dim Dam flies. They were a known occupational hazard for military personnel deployed to Burma and the mountainous regions of northern and northeastern India. Although both the male and female flies feed on nectar, pollen, and plant juices, the females also require blood in order for their eggs to develop. They are persistent biters throughout the daylight hours and are known for their voracious appetites.

Each time the men came across a stream or river, they would fill their canteens with water. They also added a chlorine tablet, or as Hamler calls it, "a little red pill to purify the water," in an effort to avoid dysentery. "But," Hamler said, "if you were out of pills, you drank the water anyway." Fortunately, he never suffered from dysentery, But, he remembers some of his fellow soldiers did and became quite ill.

When possible, the soldiers filled their canteens before allowing the animals to enter the water.

Continued on the next page



Soldier leading a horse down Ledo Rd to the combat area in Burma – Feb 1944; The 140-mile march was ordered to toughen up the men and "separate the men from the boys." From <http://www.marauder.org/>



On a dry day and a good trail, Marauders would often cover 12 miles in a 14-hour day. From <http://www.marauder.org/>



Soldiers caring for animals at the end of the day, which was a lot of work. The animals had to be unloaded, have their saddles removed, be checked for sores and leeches, and then be fed and watered. Many men learned how to perform this care while in Burma. From <http://www.marauder.org/> (Hamler, who had worked on farms as a youngster, was already well versed.)

For sustenance, the men survived on grossly insufficient K-Rations, which one Marauder, Robert "Bob" Passanisi, described as "cans of grease." Some troops also received C-Rations. They provided about 3,700 calories per 3 meals compared to the 2,830 calories per 3 meals in K-Rations. Hamler recalls having C-Rations at times while in India but only K-Rations in Burma.

Upper Right Photo: Soldier scoops up water with canteen cup and transfers to plastic bag. Water for drinking, even though it appeared pure, had to be treated with chlorine tablets or boiled before ingestion. Dysentery was a frequent complication of using raw water for human consumption. Feb-May 1944; From <http://www.marauder.org/>



The mules are held on shore while men crossing the river fill their canteens. From <http://www.marauder.org/>

Regardless of the type of rations, the soldiers did not have enough to accommodate their energy expenditure for two reasons. First, because of the scheduling of air drops, they received a bag with nine meals only every fifth day. Second, while rationing their food, they burned thousands of calories per day walking up to 12 miles while carrying gear, supplies, and weapons and engaging in battle. To put this into perspective, recent studies show that Special Forces soldiers burn about 4,600 calories per day during field exercises. By stretching nine K-Ration meals over five days, the Marauders' average daily caloric intake was less than 1,700.

Continued on the next page

The decision not to provide them adequate caloric intake was not sanctioned by the unit's doctors. Per Marauder Charlton Ogburn, Jr., after a battle "our other enemy took over: hunger. We were perpetually famished. Not only were K-Rations lacking in bulk, but every fourth or fifth day we ran out of them. We had two conditions— one in which we felt unfed, the other in which we were unfed."

Mr. Hamler describes a three-meal K-Ration package as "a little bigger than the size of a Cracker Jack box," and he was not alone in finding some of the meals unappetizing. He said he did not like "the one with eggs" and traded it for other meals. "But, eventually you just ate everything because otherwise you starved," he added. Hamler also recalls how they sometimes supplemented their diets with fish when they came to a river. They threw grenades into the water, collected the dead fish that floated to the top, and then cooked them in their helmets.

Despite the limited rations, Mr. Hamler is always quick to give credit to the soldiers in the rear echelon. They provided the frontline soldiers with food for themselves and the animals, ammunition, and – also critically important – new boots. Hamler said they walked so much during their mission that they wore holes in their boots. "I was walking on my bare feet," he said. "Without the rear echelon people, we're dead. They kicked all our supplies out. They worked hard for us." "And, some of those planes were shot down," he added. "So, the pilots were in just as much danger as we were."



Planes from the 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron drop supplies to the 5307th. Supply drops were always from altitudes of less than 300 feet. The plane shown here is a C-47 at 200 feet. It is free dropping 100-pound sacks of mule feed and grain, which are dropping faster than the parachuted supplies dropped by the preceding plane. Feb 1944; From <http://www.marauder.org/>

Unfortunately, there was one air drop of food, ammunition, and boots that Hamler's unit received, but as he said, "The Japanese were coming. We had to get out of there." So, they pushed the supplies into the river to make sure the enemy didn't benefit from them either.

Hamler also remembers when bags of water were air dropped along with ammunition in Nhpum Ga, the site of the third major battle in which he fought. The men had no water because the Japanese had taken control of the water hole, and other water sources had been contaminated by dead mules. When asked if the air-dropped bags of water remained intact, Hamler said, "The ones that hit a tree or a horse came open." But, enough survived the drop to supply the men and animals with water, albeit rationed. He added, "The rear echelon was great."



This soldier just received a bag of K-Rations that contains nine meals. But, because of how the air drops were scheduled, those nine meals had to last for five days. Feb 1944; From <http://www.marauder.org/>

Support from the rear notwithstanding, the soldiers were ultimately reduced to skeletal figures. In addition to fighting the Japanese, starvation, and treacherous weather, the Marauders also fought deadly diseases, such as typhus, malaria, and dysentery.

Moreover, the soldiers were operating on limited sleep as they took turns sleeping and standing guard at night. Hamler said, "There had to be absolute silence at night in the jungle because any noise invited shelling from the Japanese." He went on to explain that the soldiers, therefore, teamed up as fox hole buddies, digging their holes just a few feet apart. Then, at night, they both tied one end of the same rope to themselves before one went to sleep and the other stood guard. When it was time for the soldier standing guard to sleep, he pulled on the rope to awaken his fox hole buddy. That soldier then pulled on his end of the rope to confirm that he was awake so his buddy could go to sleep for a few hours.

Despite the many challenges, and to the great surprise of world leaders and U.S. and British military leadership, the Marauders met their mission and defeated the Japanese 18th Division over the course of 5 major battles and 30 minor engagements.

Capture of the airfield in the town of Myitkyina on May 17, 1944 marked the end of the Marauder mission. At that time, only about 200 Marauders were still combat capable.

Continued on the next page

It was then determined that capture of the town itself was also required. Fortunately, control of the airfield enabled reinforcements to begin flying in almost immediately. In the meantime, the Japanese had had time to strengthen their position as well. Fighting was intense with heavy casualties among the American reinforcements, most of whom were not combat seasoned. The Allies finally took control of the town of Myitkyina on August 3, 1944.

Complete statistics of casualties are not available because many light battle casualties and less severe disease casualties were treated by unit surgeons in the field without any documentation.

But, according to The Adjutant General's battle casualty roster for hospitalized wounded, during the Marauder campaign (which ended with capture of the airfield), 93 Marauders were killed in action, 30 died nonbattle-related deaths, 8 were missing in action, and 293 were wounded severely enough to require hospitalization. Mr. Hamler, who was shot in late March 1944 during the Battle of Nhpum Ga, was among the latter.

The heaviest toll was due to disease, with 1,970 cases being hospitalized. The combined casualty rate due to either injury or disease that required hospitalization was 80%.

On August 10, 1944, one week after capture of the town of Myitkyina, the unit disbanded with only about "100 Marauders still standing," according to Marauder Sam Wilson, who later rose to the rank of lieutenant general during his lengthy military career.

Remembering his Thompson submachine gun, earning the Combat Infantry Badge, and acknowledging the invaluable Burmese guides:

Mr. Hamler fought in three of the five major battles, Walabum, Inkangawtaung, and Nhpum Ga, as well as in multiple minor engagements. He was armed with a Thompson submachine gun, also called a Tommy Gun, with 30-round magazines. "The jungles were full of Japanese," he said. "You could come across them at any time." He added, "We did a lot of shooting because they kept coming."

Hamler, as did all of the Marauders, earned a Combat Infantryman Badge, which is awarded to members of an Infantry or Special Forces unit who are the rank of colonel or below and who engaged in active ground combat while assigned to a unit of brigade size or smaller any time after December 6, 1941.

Mr. Hamler is quick to acknowledge how critical the locals were to the Marauders' success, as they helped them navigate the terrain. "Each column had a Burmese guide," he said. "They sure knew their jungles."

In addition to knowing all the trails, the Burmese guides often knew where the Japanese were located.

Hamler also remembers 12-and-13-year-old Burmese boys carrying Thompson submachine guns. He said they went into the jungle, killed Japanese soldiers, and then were paid by the British after presenting an ear as proof of the killing.



These soldiers are setting up a machine gun for perimeter defense. From <http://www.marauder.org/>. This photo also illustrates the concept of side-by-side fox holes used by fox hole buddies.



Soldiers patrolling the jungle near Walabum, the location of the first major battle, just prior to the attack- March 5-7, 1944; From <http://www.marauder.org/>

Russell "Huck" Hamler PFC WWII Congressional Gold Medal Recipient

Originally published June 12, 2022 (Updated May 2024)

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RANGER

Merrill's Marauder Tribute
for Colonel Ralph Puckett JR



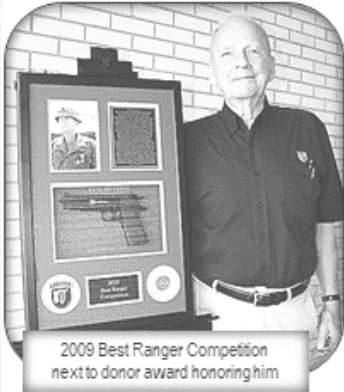
Ralph Puckett

Korea and Vietnam war veteran COL Ralph Puckett, awarded a Medal of Honor in 2021 for his bravery in Korea, was a long-time Merrill's Marauder supporter, writing numerous letters to Congress supporting their Congressional Gold Medal campaign. He was a champion of my Dad, Vincent Melillo, who he called "the little Marauder." He was on the National Ranger Memorial Foundation board of directors committee that hired me as their editor many years ago. Both Ralph and Dad attended many of the same military events. This page consists of some of my favorite photos I've taken of him over the years, except for bottom center. Marauders attending events at Ft. Benning felt honored to be in his presence. He will be sorely missed on this Earth.

by Jonnie Melillo Clasen



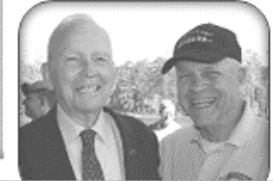
2012 With CSM Roger Girard



2009 Best Ranger Competition next to donor award honoring him



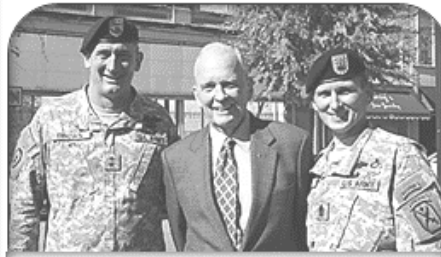
2013 With retired COL "Rob" Choppa



2013 With retired COL Paul Longgrea

Colonel Ralph Puckett Parkway

Distinguished Service Cross - Korean And Vietnam Wars
Soldier, Warrior, Leader
RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



2010 Columbus Veterans Day speaker Ralph Puckett with Ft. Benning commander MG Robert Brown & CSM Chris Hardy



2014 With retired CSMs (L-R) Bill Block and "Skip" Strickland and BG "Joe" Stringham



2011 With Marauder Vincent Melillo



2011 With (L-R) CSMs Dennis Smith & the late "Chuck" Waters, triple CIB who enlisted at age 14



2017 With Marauder Gilbert Howland



2015 With retired CSM Clyde Glenn



2012 With LTG Frank G. Helmick



2021 With Marauder Bob Passanisi 75th RRA RHOF Banquet



2016 Ft. Benning National Ranger Monument with Memorial wreath for Marauder Vincent Melillo, who died 12.24.2015 (L-R) MG Scott Miller, Ralph Puckett, Jonnie Melillo Clasen & Blair Brown



2015 65th Korea Day Anniversary - FT Benning (L-R) Korean official, Vincent Melillo, Warren G. MacDonald & COL Ralph Puckett

Happy June, 75th Rangers! For this month's edition, I have submitted an article to publish by my 14-year-old son, Atticus, composed and sent out to friends and family in honor of D-Day. Atticus is on track to become a pilot and is currently active in Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary Majors Composite Squadron TX 645th located in Greenville, Texas. He is very proud of his military lineage and is quick to stop and shake the hand of any veteran he identifies thanking them for their service. He is already well versed in customs and courtesies and is a member of the CAP Color Guard. He deeply values his faith, respect, honor, and integrity and is an avid war history buff. He has already invested in a small fortune of military artifacts and memorabilia and thoroughly enjoys documentaries, podcasts and reading in his spare time. Below you will find his tribute to honor the memory of D-Day and those who have gone before us. Amanda Neet. Former Patrolling editor.

Today is the sixth of June

Good day. Today is the sixth of June. The beaches of Normandy are no longer soaked in blood nor littered with dead. There is no longer the sound of the machine gun but ghostly shells of German pillboxes. You won't hear the screams of dying soldiers but sweet tunes of birds. There is no longer shell craters or barbed wire but trees and brush fields that once meant almost certain death. On June 6th, 1944, the Allies were planning an all-out assault. They had one chance to drive the Germans out of France and if failed, it would be catastrophic! The Germans believed they would drive the Allies back to the sea... we knew too. But with determination, the Allies went against all odds and launched the largest amphibious assault in history. More than 1,500 ships, 3,000 aircraft and more than 12,000 soldiers, mostly still in their teens, landed without warning on Omaha Beach, Gold Beach, Sword Beach, and Utah Beach, and other smaller beaches like Point Du-Hoc. There the 4th and 6th Rangers scaled cliffs over 8-foot swells, jagged rocks, rubber boats and merciless German soldiers dropping grenades and shooting down at the defenseless soldiers. There were paratroopers of the 101st Airborne and the 82nd Airborne who jumped into the dark of night deep into enemy territory. They had Germans shooting them from down below with no way to defend themselves. It was shoot or be shot and for most, it was a one-way mission. And now, to this day, Normandy is the final resting place for many men. They died for people they never met but know were under the thumb of the Nazi Regime. The Allies were dropped from their boats and ran through swarms of enemy fire. If you were hit once you won't have time to fall before another bullet ripped into you. Then another. And then another. You were thrown around like a rag doll with bullets. Hundreds of men died that day from the loss of blood. Medics couldn't get to them in time. If they did, the only wounded the medics could save were the ones they knew would live. Many still alive lay dying in a pool of blood. During the landings 8,500 men lost their lives and one third of them on Omaha beach; the most fortified of all the beaches. It was roughly 8 miles long with about a 200-yard stretch of open beach and an 80-foot sea cliff at the end. Atop those cliffs were pillboxes; dozens of them. Each equipped with

2 MG42 or MG46s (the fastest firing machine gun of the Second World War capable of firing roughly 15 bullets per second). On Omaha specifically there were over 9,000 German soldiers. Most of the US casualties were on Omaha Beach during the first wave. Only 300 men walked out of the first wave out of 1,500 and the rest either dead, wounded, taken prisoner, or missing in action (MIA).

Men launched with buddies, and most found themselves alone after the five waves. In shallow graves atop the cliffs overlooking Omaha Beach is the National D-Day cemetery. It is the final resting place of many men. Men who would never see their families, friends, or neighbors again. Men who would never see the day of victory when the Allie's would march into Berlin and shut down the Nazi war machine. They will never get a pat on the back for a job well done. For the services, the preacher read aloud words in red "Greater love hath no man than this, to lay down his life for his friends" John 15:13.

There are two people who gave their lives for us to keep us free, Soldiers and Jesus. Both went down and came back for more. These two worlds are completely different but tie together perfectly. "His breast with wounds, unnumbered riven, his back to earth, his face to heaven." And "greater love hath no more than this, a man lay to down his life for his friends."

Two completely different types of men but both fighting for the same cause: freedom, life, faith, and resisting the enemy.

1) Freedom. Both Soldiers and Jesus fight for the freedom of other people; soldiers fight for earthly freedom and Jesus fought for heavenly freedom.

2) Life. Both soldiers and Jesus fought for life. Soldiers fought for the life of the country and the life of people they didn't know. Jesus fought for life with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and a life with Him for eternity.

3) Faith. Soldiers fight for the faith of freedom and have the faith to continue fighting alongside each other. Jesus was fighting for people to have faith in God and to have Faith in His speaking.

4) Resisting the enemy. Soldiers fight and resist the attacks of the enemy. They do it with munitions and fight against enemy guns and other weapons. Jesus resists the enemy by fighting off temptation, resisting the enemy's ways to trick you into thinking something that it's not.

On June 6th, 1944 the biggest amphibious assault ever to take place in history is coming up on its 80th anniversary. Please remember as you go on with your day the KIA, the MIA, the WIA and the survivors who say they are not heroes; the ones who say the were just the lucky ones and the real heroes are the boys who are still in France. We will agree with them, but they also put their lives on the line with no regard for their own life but for the lives of others.

Please remember...The Invasion of Normandy. 1944-2024

And God Bless.

Atticus

And Then Some

The 40th Anniversary of the Best Ranger Competition (BRC) is over. The 2024 BRC winning Ranger buddy team is Lt. Andrew Winski, 2nd Ranger Battalion, and Sgt. Matthew Dunphy, 1st Ranger Battalion, representing the 75th Ranger Regiment. Both are first-time competitors to the event. Outstanding Rangers. And then some!

From this year's BRC information book, it defines the purpose and scope of the BRC and borrowing from the Ranger Creed, *A more elite Soldier who moves further, faster, and fights harder.* From the Abrams Charter, *Do things with hands and weapons better than anyone. Never Quit, never surrender.* All with resiliency at all times, demonstrating technical skills, marksmanship, and physical fitness in completing the mission. And then some!

For *Patrolling* magazine, since its inception in 1987, reporting to the entire Ranger community and beyond, is a responsibility that relies on, among other things, collaboration with those who run the BRC event and the professional group of public affairs at Ft. Moore who provide the bulk of outstanding journalism photos and information to the public, all free and accessible to use.

Driving from northern Minnesota to Fort Moore for this year's Best Ranger Competition (BRC), my better half, Pam, had commitments at home so I invited a friend and nearby neighbor of mine along for the ride. Justin Stay, a former 75th RRA Webmaster and current G/75th Webmaster for twenty-plus years, was a perfect person to have along. Outside of attending two G/75th reunions, he had not attended any formal Ranger event, period.

The trip down to Georgia is always looked forward to by me; leaving snow on the ground and watching the outside temperature slowly climb on the dashboard as we wound our way south. I like to drive with the volume up, listening to rock'n roll tunes with the sunroof open, and two firm hands on the wheel while in the slow lane. You see all kinds of characters on the interstate.



Traffic jam on I-24 near Nashville. To my immediate left, I saw Donald and his dog keeping pace all the way to the BRC.

Justin, however, drives in the fast lane allowing faster traffic to pass in the slow lane, one hand loosely resting on the steering wheel, likes the volume down low with country western, the sunroof closed, and shaded. *Goth.* Heading south.

We got into Columbus Wednesday afternoon. We picked up our press passes at the Public Affairs office and checked into our hotel in the downtown area. We ate on Broadway at a pizza shop eating their house special, a side salad and a couple of cold beers. With inside seating (it was raining), we took in the foot parade traffic for the evening and soon retired for the too-early Thursday event.

Normally on Thursday, the day before the BRC, Pam and I play in the Ranger Scholarship golf fundraiser. Pam and I both support the scholarship and BRC like so many others, too. RLTW! So, we did something different Thursday this year.

Amanda Surmeier, FT Moore Public Affairs professional team member, invited us to their first Media Day to experience a series of events related to soldiers in training in FT Moore. Wow! Nothing like getting up at 3 a.m. to rendezvous with all the media people at the Lindsey Creek gate entry to the post, 4:30 sharp. We followed our Team Leader (TL), Amanda (my term from being a TL of "Lurps" in Vietnam) to the Public Affairs office at McGinnis-Wickam Hall. We loaded up in our bus that drove us to our first venue, the 3rd Ranger Battalion PT area. Greeting us at O'Dark-thirty was Ranger Regimental Command Sergeant Major Brett Johnson. He spoke to our group about the higher qualities of a Ranger and part of that included physical fitness. He reminded us that we are in this together. We are here because we want to be here. CSM Johnson represented the 75th Ranger Regiment at the highest level. He gave our media group charge by challenging us (media) by sharing what was happening during the BRC with not only the immediate audience that we provide stories and photos to, but to the whole world as well. And then some!



CSM Brett Johnson is up at O'dark-thirty leading the way with information to complete the task and then some. RLTW



Media Group

The majority of the media group were in shape. They did all the PT that was offered, running up and down the ramp with a huge sledgehammer in one hand, that only Odin and Rangers would use, and in the other hand, a satchel of weights. It was a team effort with Rangers and media pushing heavy sleds across the compound, too. Justin and I were the silent cheerleaders.

We headed back to Public Affairs for those that needed to change and shower after the rigorous workout. Justin and I got good mileage from our morning attire. A light breakfast then loaded the bus where we went to a thirty-some foot high, simulated fuselage resembling a C-119, the same bird we used in jump school in Benning, some 55 years ago. We had a crew of jumpmasters that gave us instruction, encouragement, and fit and harnessed us with mock parachutes before ascending the tower. Once on top, another jumpmaster instructed us, on cue, then out the door we went. What a rush. Jumping out the door gave me a true drop sensation. Then sliding on a cable to an awaiting crew, grabbing us before we wound up in the parking lot.

We got on the bus and away we went. After a quick snooze, I opened my eyes and before me were tanks and more tanks. A brief presentation and informational welcome, we were offered a 15-minute ride in the tank, two at a time. Justin had the top view on the way out to the turnaround while I was in the belly of the behemoth. Then we switched. The tank commander was professional and shared ongoing info about the tank and each crewmember's responsibility. And of course, when we alit from the tank back at the starting point, someone pointed out that with two empty 50 caliber ammo cans, you could affix them to the rear of the tank's 1500 F exhaust, without any modification, and fry some Spam for lunch, say. That was similar to us in Nam

Gung Ho and ready for the Jump and then some!



using small cubes of C4, heating up our LRRP rations. Hands on learning at its best and then some!

Time for lunch, so we headed to Camp Rogers where the BRC teams were getting their backpacks checked and secured for the next day's event. Guess what was on the lunch menu? MREs. Everyone was game eating theirs and I chose to save mine for some lucky Halloween trick or treat. During lunch, two of our media members, Ben, the cameraman, and correspondent Madison Scarpino, both from Fox News, interviewed one Ranger team member. Justin and I were waiting for a 75th Regiment team to interview and photo for *Patrolling*, but we got stood up; maybe next year.

Continued on the next page

Loaded the bus and then stopped at a well-attended demonstration of small arms with machine gun fire and armored personnel carriers with mortars shooting at selected targets. All were on the mark and were capable of establishing continuous fire, all destroying their different targets, and then some!

Back to Public Affairs and Justin and I followed other media members to Lawson Airfield on post for a Blackhawk water and safety class. The successful completion of the course would allow us to ride the "bird" during the fast rope insertion the next day and the water insertion into Victory Pond on Sunday. The Ravens are the 75th Regiment sole flight insertion helicopters that they use. Again, personal safety and expectations were explained to a well-heeded audience. Thank you, Ravens. And then some!

Back to the hotel for a snooze then drove onto Camp Rogers for the first of many well-attended social events of the BRC. Supporters of the BRC are allotted tickets for these events, the Friday night social on Camp Rogers, and the BRC supporter supper

Saturday early evening.

Then the three-day BRC event began. The intense, physical and mental demands throughout the events starting Friday morning, ended with the awards ceremony Monday morning. I got the first leg driving home, the sunroof open, Rolling Stones cranked up, and driving in the slow lane. Life is good. And then some!

For professional photos by the Fort Moore Public Affairs photos: Google search *2024 Best Ranger Competition Public Affairs*

Do you want some independent professional photos of the competition? Laura Fogarty has some at laurafogarty.com – Go to her website and click on Photo Gallery.

Go to Facebook and search for the *2024 Best Ranger Competition* for other photos.

Stephen Odin Johnson

RLTW!

Carole Ortenzo

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SALUTES RUSSELL HAMLER— Part II— Continued



Chinese soldier and Marauder comparing their models of Thompson submachine guns when the Chinese relieved the Marauders after the Battle of Walabum- March 1944; From <http://www.marauder.org/>



Kachin (Burmese) guide. The Kachins were extremely helpful. They knew all the trails, and they usually knew where the Japanese were. March 1944; From <http://www.marauder.org/>



Left-Kachin (Burmese) youth serving as a guide for 5307th and as a Kachin Ranger. He proficiently fought Japanese troops. March 1944; From <http://www.marauder.org/>

Thank you, Carole Ortenzo, for submitting this article to *Patrolling* magazine and the Ranger community!

2024 is shaping up to be a very busy year for many of us, and a good time to renew old relationships or forge some new ones.

75th Ranger Regiment Battalions are celebrating their 50th Anniversaries, Ranger Rendezvous and Ranger Muster are being held, and several organization and Unit reunions are being held. So, this is a great opportunity to find old friends. Because many of us are reaching our "expiration date".

Sometimes reunions can produce wonderful surprises.

In 2018 at the LRRR Rally in Branson MO., I was busy getting things "flowing" when a guy approached me and asked if Jim Thayer ever attended the Rallies. I said, "Sure he does and that's him sitting right over there" and went back to work. I watched the guy looking for Jim Thayer wondering "what's up with that." I watched as they engaged in conversation and watched them as they shook hands and then a huge bear hug!

It turns out that they were in the 9th ID LRRPs in Vietnam and Jim Thayer carried Jim Martens out of the jungle after he had been severely wounded on November 8, 1968.

They had not seen nor had contact with each other since Thayer put Martens on the Medevac'd, and for over 50 years they had no idea whether each of them made it home OK. As many of you know putting together reunions, Rallies, and Ranger Breakfast are a lot of work...but that day made all worthwhile for me and no doubt for them. Sadly, Jim Thayer passed away not too long after their reunion.



Above Photo: These two men hadn't seen each other since the man on the right, Jim Thayer, carried Jim Martens, on the left, out of the jungle after Martens got wounded on a LRP patrol in Vietnam on November 8th, 1968.

There are many such stories out there and there are many more people who need to be contacted and who would appreciate you making contact. For we Vietnam LRRPs/LRPs/ Rangers time

is of the essence. In the past few weeks, I read far too many notices of people who passed on and sometimes it is far too late for friends to pay their last respects. This is a good time to do something, at least attend one of the Ranger Breakfasts that are held all over.

UPDATE Your Files

Tax Time is rapidly approaching and while you have all your records out and files available.... update them!

Far too many times a surviving spouse or family is suddenly faced with trying to find the records and files of your service, VA Claims information, and financial information. I know we all are "going to do it next week," but sometimes next week is too late.

There are many things we forget to have information about, insurance information, bank account date and passwords, people we want to be contacted, your computer or cell phone access information, and the list can go on and on! There are many things your survivors need to know.

As a reminder, every military retiree should have the information below included with their "just in case" documents for survivors can report the death of the Retired Soldier.

Leave a list of things that need to be done.

Contact the Department of the Army Casualty & Mortuary Affairs Operations Center at 1-800-626-3317.

They will refer you to a local Casualty Assistance Center who will report the death to DFAS to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process.

When reporting a retiree's death, the following information must be available to initiate the process:

- * Full name of retiree
- * Retired rank
- * SSN of the retiree
- * Next of kin information
- * Circumstances involving the death
- * Copy of the death certificate
- * Copy of DD-214

There are many Facebook and social media sites that offer help and information to Military or Veterans Families.... just be careful, there are also many people just waiting to take advantage of situations such as these.

We really are a community, so if you or your family needs assistance, reach out!

Marshall Huckaby
25th ID LRRP 66-67

The Ranger Hall of Fame selection process for 2024 is now complete. Here is the list of the Rangers selected for induction this year. Those with an asterisk are members of the 75th RRA who were submitted to the Ranger Hall of Fame board for review. We are proud of all those selected, especially Terry Roderick and Anthony Mayne.

CSM (R) Harry L. Wimbrough

COL (R) John Louis Jensen

****SGT Terry Roderick**

****MAJ (R) Anthony Mayne**

CSM (R) Brunk Wesley Conley

COL (R) John R. Reitzell

MAJ (R) Gilbert K. Jenkins

MAJ (R) Willie Merkerson JR

CSM (R) Victor Alex Ballesteros

CSM (R) Glenn Legg

CSM (R) Randall K. Inman

MG (R) Leroy N. Suddath, Jr.

CSM (R) Frank Grippe

COL (R) James A. Pfaff, MD

CSM (R) John Brady

HON: Mr. Richard Dean Eckburg

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association submitted 3 packages to the board and 2 of the 3 members submitted were selected for induction. Let us congratulate all of those selected for induction and to all those nominated. Let us give a special congratulations to the 2 newest members of the 75th RRA who will be inducted on 26 Jun 2024.

Major (Ret) Major (Ret) Anthony W. Mayne who served in both 3rd Ranger Battalion and the 75th Ranger Regiment Headquarters. He now supports our Rangers who are leaving the military service through the Ranger Outreach Center (ROC) located in Columbus GA. He continues to work with our Rangers through the Ranger Outreach Program and conducts daily transition counseling at the Ranger Outreach Center. Whether they are staying in the service or separating this program he assists in getting them started 12 to 18 months prior to ETS to maximize their opportunities moving forward.

SGT Terry B Roderick, Ranger Roderick served in A Co and P Co Rangers. He also served as the unit Director for P Co and was a Past President for our Association. He was a sounding board and provided guidance and perspective to the Association officers on issues that were pertinent to our growth. This award to Ranger Roderick is made posthumously as he passed away in 2022. Terry was always there to promote our Association and is missed by

all those he worked with.

Sadly, our third packet which was submitted for **SGT Alfred Charles Stewart, Jr.** of G Company was not selected this year even though he had the required points, but the Ranger Hall of Fame only selects 15 members each year. This packet will be reviewed and submitted again next year.

The induction ceremony will be held on 26 June 2024 at 1300 at the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Moore, GA (Formerly known as Bldg. 4 Fort Benning Ga.). Let's get there for our mini-Ranger Rendezvous and support our new inductees.

As I have stated, only 15 slots are available for induction each year and the RHOF board only selects the top 15 from all the packages submitted from the Ranger organizations, the 75th Ranger Regiment, the Airborne Ranger Training Brigade and those packets submitted by current members of the Ranger Hall of Fame. The selection committee looks at the individual's military service and his commitment to the Ranger ethos after military service, i.e., what he has done to promote the Ranger ethos and the Ranger community. Has he served the community, has he supported the organization? They do review the person as a whole, not just military service accomplishments.

I would like to take this moment to congratulate one of our RHOF members who was selected for induction into Special Operations Forces Medical Hall of Fame. Congratulations CWO William (Doc) D. Donovan. Doc Donovan's loyalty to the Ranger Creed and commitment to the 1st Ranger battalion is unparalleled and serves as an example for others to emulate. His career brings great credit upon himself and the 1st Ranger Battalion, and truly demonstrates the motto: "Rangers Lead the Way". Doc, you are a true hero and a Ranger who has always "Led The Way."

Now as I have done in the past, Let's introduce to the members of the Association two members of the Ranger Hall of Fame who were inducted in 1993 and 1994. I had the pleasure of serving with both of these Rangers and feel they were deserving of induction. Sadly, both are now gone from our ranks, but they are always remembered, especially by me.



Colonel Stang



SFC Shughart

Continued on the next page

COLONEL ARTHUR C. STANG III: Colonel Stang, service to the U.S. Army and the nation was exceptionally steadfast, distinguished, and loyal. While serving in various command and staff positions in peacetime and war, his performance was magnificent in every respect. His diligent efforts as Brigade S2 saved countless lives and contributed significantly to the combat effectiveness of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Republic of Vietnam. He was highly regarded by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Navy Staff while serving as a member of the Army Staff. In this capacity, he far exceeded the normal outstanding performance of duty expected of Office of the Deputy of Chief of Staff for Operations (ODCSOPS) staff officers. His professional competence, creativity and diligence were instrumental in the production of the Land Forces Book, Volume II, Joint Standing Operating Procedures. By virtue of his dynamic personality, professional qualifications, and exacting standards as commander of 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division, he electrified and energized the battalion to the point where it enjoyed the well-deserved reputation "Second to None." Because of his superb performance as a battalion commander, he was selected to command the 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry. As a Ranger battalion commander, he welded his men into a highly motivated, elite, skilled unit with everyone working as a team. Through his leadership, the battalion reached a state of motivation unmatched by his peers. Through his unit, Colonel Stang clearly exemplified the motto "Rangers Lead The Way." During his tour of duty as the Commander of 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, culminating as the Chief of Staff, 82nd Airborne Division, Colonel Stang demonstrated through dynamic, caring leadership and recognition, the theory that the individual soldier would be more loyal, dedicated, and professional if subject to these virtues. Colonel Stang's service, which was characterized by selfless dedication to the defense of the country, has been distinguished

in every regard.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RANDALL D. SHUGHART: SFC Shughart is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in Mogadishu, Somalia. In August 1993 while assigned to Task Force Ranger, Sergeant First Class Shughart's mission contingency plans included rescue of any downed aircraft crew. When the first helicopter crashed into the Mogadishu streets, he provided protective covering fire allowing the Ranger rescue team to secure the area around the helicopter. When the second helicopter crashed, Sergeant First Class Shughart could see movement inside. Realizing friendly ground troops could not reach the downed helicopter in time, he requested permission to land. Making their way to the crash site he and another Special Operations soldier removed the seriously wounded helicopter crew from the aircraft. Armed with only a rifle and a pistol he moved around the crash site attempting to stop the rush of an angry Somalian crowd. Checking the downed helicopter for weapons and ammunition, he gave the sole survivor, CWO Michael Durant, a rifle and five rounds of ammunition. Armed with only a pistol he continued to safeguard the wounded pilot until he, too, received a fatal wound. When CWO Durant was released from captivity 11 days later, he credited his survival to Sergeant First Class Shughart's unselfish actions. His refusal to leave a fallen comrade, even at the expense of his own life is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Rangers and the United States Army.

On a side note, on 30 May 2024 a bridge will be dedicated in Newville, PA honoring SFC Shughart's dedication to service by never leaving a fallen comrade. He made the ultimate sacrifice living the Ranger Creed.



HQ/75TH RANGER HHC

UNIT DIRECTOR—THOMAS MAIER

One-hundred and forty-six servicemembers earned the Medal of Honor for their actions during the Korean War. On April 8, 2024, the last living recipient, retired Col. Ralph Puckett, Jr., who once upon a time led a company of elite U.S. Army Rangers in a fierce battle against a numerically superior enemy force in Korea, passed away peacefully at his home in Columbus.

During the battle in Korea, Puckett led the 8th Army Ranger Company in securing the strategically important Hill 205 near Unsan. It was there that Puckett repeatedly and intentionally sprinted across the open area to draw enemy fire so that his Rangers could find and destroy hidden enemy machine-guns. Though outnumbered 9 to 1, Puckett's Rangers successfully fought back multiple waves of determined Chinese soldiers before eventually being overrun. At one point, two mortar rounds landed in Puckett's foxhole, ravaging his feet, backside and left arm. With no regard for his own health and out of concern for the safety of his Rangers, Puckett ordered his men to leave him behind. They refused, instead fighting to his side and carrying him off Hill 205 to safety.

He was initially awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest honor, for his actions and leadership. Seven decades later, on May 21, 2021, it was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

To only link the memory of Puckett to this single moment in time, however, would be a massive disservice.

"His story best starts with the heroism that he displayed during the Korean War, where he earned the Medal of Honor," said Col. J.D. Keirse, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. "And, if that wasn't enough, he spent his entire life [afterward] fully invested in making Soldiers, leaders, infantrymen and Rangers the



best that they could possibly be."

Aside from his combat accolades in Korea, he also fought in Vietnam; planned, supervised and established a Ranger School in Colombia; was among the first to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame; and served as the honorary colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment from 1996-2006.

Well into his 90s it was common to see Puckett in and around Fort Moore, Georgia., either out in the rain at Ranger School, rooting for the students to get their "GO's" on patrol, attending Ranger Selection and Training Program graduations, or cheering competitors on at the Best Ranger Competition.

He wanted to be involved, and more than that, he wanted the best for everyone he met.

"If you knew Col. Puckett, you knew that he had this special knack for instantly seeing what you were made of," said Gen. James J. Mingus, the vice chief of staff of the Army. "And what you could achieve with just a bit of encouragement and a whole lot of faith."

Puckett held a deep and powerful belief that, with guts and brains, anyone could rise

to the top. He challenged everyone he met to rise above the ordinary.

This included Sgt. 1st Class Caleb Togami, a Ranger assigned to the 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

"I wasn't even in the Army the first time I met Col. Puckett," said Togami. "He was doing a book signing at my brother's Ranger School graduation. I went up to him to get his book signed and he asked me if I was in the military. I told him, 'No, I am not.'"

Togami continued, "That's when he stopped writing, looked me dead in the eye, and asked, 'Why not?'"

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Togami credits that moment — that sincere, matter-of-fact question, delivered by this legendary Ranger who clearly believed that Togami could make it if he tried — with playing a large role in his decision to join the Army and assess for selection into the 75th Ranger Regiment.

That day Puckett signed Togami's book with the message: "To Caleb, Best wishes for great success."

Years later, Togami met Puckett again, and presented him that same book, which Puckett signed a second time: "To SSG Togami (6 years later a U.S. Army Ranger), I'm proud of you!"

The Ranger Regiment is filled with stories like this. Small moments in time where Puckett, with his remarkable ability to make human connections with everyone he met, would impact the lives of those around him.

"Puckett poured his heart and soul into the Ranger community, his entire life," said Mingus.

Puckett lived the Ranger Creed and regarded all Soldiers, leaders and Rangers as his comrades. To the best of his ability, he tried always to be there for them.

Whether that meant seeking out new lieutenants at the 75th Ranger Regiment to offer his advice or walking the grueling field training exercise lanes to dole out much-needed encouragement to the tired and hungry Ranger School students, he made it a point to always be where he was needed.

And in the Global War on Terror era, that often meant going back into dangerous lands.

"I remember seeing him in Afghanistan," said Keirse, "This is a man well-past the age limit we place on servicemembers, but you could recognize him at night, under nods, because he was so frequently amongst us. He was there, never failing us when we needed him. Never failing his comrades."

And although he was widely regarded as a compassionate and caring man, he was also the first to share hard truths, especially with leaders within the Ranger Regiment.

Since the last issue, RHQ has been engaged in numerous activities supporting the Regiment and its Rangers.

The company supported Best Ranger, Best Sapper, Best Sniper and Best Mortar Competition with the Regiment winning all but Best Sapper.

The 40th annual U.S. Army Best Ranger Competition was won by 1st Lt. Andrew Winski and Sgt. Matthew Dunphy. The duo earned the highest marks, beating **55 other teams from across the U.S. Army.**



In addition to their overall win, Winski, who is assigned to 2nd Battalion, and Dunphy, who is assigned to 1/75, won the highest marks on marksmanship among the 56 teams.

Winski and Dunphy's win is the latest major competition won by our Rangers. In fact, soldiers from our Regiment took the top spots at the International Best Mortar Competition and the International Best Sniper Competition.

April 12, Spc. Emmanuel Jackson, Spc. Logan Otis, Staff Sgt. Enrique Caballero and Sgt. Mason Davison, all with 3rd Battalion, earned the top spot at the International Best Mortar Competition. That put them through not only tests on their aiming and marksmanship skills but also plenty of obstacle courses, land navigation, and how they would react to contact with enemy fire.



Earlier, Staff Sgt. Brian Sheffield and Staff Sgt. Matthew Howard, 3/75 Rangers, were deemed the top shots at the International Best Sniper Competition. As part of their challenges, competing teams were tested on their long-range marksmanship as well as related skills such as stealth and reconnaissance.

The trio of wins comes after two members of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sgt. Patrick Murphy and Staff Sgt. Ryan Musso took the top spot at the U.S. Army Best Medic Competition on March 8. That contest put teams of two through a series of physical challenges as the medics had to navigate simulations of combat scenarios and test their medical skills.

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Staff Sgt. Patrick Murphy and Staff Sgt. Ryan Musso

Promotions:

CPT Alex Ford (RS39 Effects) promoted to Major
 CPT Brian Jacobs (REC-D) promoted to Major
 CPT Tim Stein (RS39 Effects) promoted to Major

Graduations:

PFC Nevin Afong (RHHC OPS) graduated from the Ranger Course
 MAJ John Brandsma (RVET) graduated from the Ranger Course
 MAJ Alex Ford (RD39) earned Honor Graduate from the US Army Command & General Staff College

D-Day 80 Prep:

Rangers from across the Regiment converged on FMGA to complete jumpmaster training and the first of multiple training jumps from a historic C-47 aircraft. The RS3 Air Team and 3/75 executed a flawless jump at Fryar Drop Zone. Rangers are the first unit in over a decade to execute a jump from a C-47.

As always, Rangers Lead the Way!

Ranger Maier



Below, A Company Change of Command: CPT Mark Hanna assumed command of A Co from CPT Corey Greene. The ceremony also recognized the leadership within their FRG (Mrs Alexis Greene).



Above, CPT Smarjesse assumes Command of Charlie Company



The UMT hosted with support from the Sua Sponte Foundation paintball for single Rangers.

C CO Change of Command: CPT Ty Smarjesse assumed command of C CO from CPT TY Boyle. The ceremony also recognized the leadership within their FRG (Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Amber Boyers).



The UMT hosted a BN Date Night with support from the Sua Sponte Foundation at the Grey downtown Savannah.

Above, CPT Boyle giving his final comments to Charlie Company after relinquishing command.

Continued on the next page



The UMT hosted a Single Ranger Ski Trip in North Carolina.



Above, Rangers after safe exit on Taylors Creek DZ



Left, 60 mm Mortar Team providing suppression during Life Fire
Right, Fires element controlling AH-64 gun runs during Platoon Live Fire.



Battalion Airborne Operation: 193 Rangers participated in a D/MT/CE C-130 Airborne Operation on Remagen DZ to improve Airborne proficiency.



Below, Battalion Airborne Operation: 168 Rangers participated in a D/MT/CE MH-47 Airborne Operation on Taylors Creek DZ to improve airborne proficiency.



Above, Rangers conduct a D/MT/CE jump at Remagen Field.



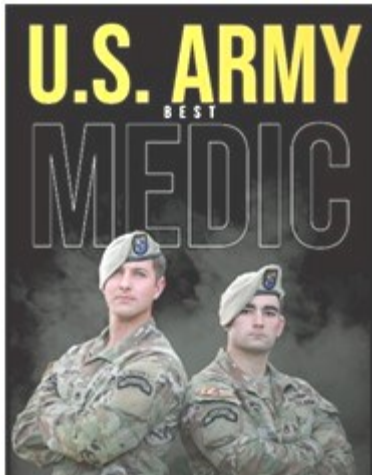
Above, Rangers loading MH for their jump at Ft Stewart.

Continued on the next page

Below, Small Arms Density. Delta Company conducted a small arms density, qualifying all their Rangers on their primary weapon systems and building proficiency in AT weapon systems.



Putting on a Clinic: Right, L-R, SSG Patrick Murphy and SSG Ryan Musso led the way in emergency medicine, utilizing the full Ranger of their medical knowledge and training to win the Army Best Medic Competition held at Ft Moore, GA from 04-08 March 24. Team 3 put on a dominating performance, finishing in the top position every day of the competition.



Above, Sua Sponte Foundation hosts 50th Anniversary Day on Family Field including a catered lunch and a friendly tug-of-war.



Above, 50th Anniversary Ball and St Paddy's Day Parade

Other news, **Charleston Marriage Retreat:** Ranger couples led by CH Davis, conducted the Sacred Marriage curriculum from 5-7 APR in South Carolina for a relaxing weekend, a retreat and building connections with each other. **C CO Change of Responsibility:** 1SG Young assumed responsibility of C CO from 1SG Haskell. **D CO Change of Responsibility:** 1SG Miles Capehart assumed responsibility of D CO from 1SG Gryan Jensen. **Father Child Campout:** Ranger Fathers enjoyed a weekend of camping with their kids and participated in a variety of activities including, archery, zip lining, rock climbing, swimming, and boating. 18 dads and 40 children took part from 19-21 April. **Best Ranger:** SGT Matt Dunphy and Coy Anderson represented the Regiment at this year's BRC on teams 40 and 43. 1st Ranger Battalion's SGT Dunphy's team was victorious while SGT Anderson's team placed 5th overall. Separately, CPT Eric Behringer and SSG John Atnip represented the battalion at Best Sapper and placed 5th.



1/75 BN Photo: 1st Ranger Battalion at the 1/75 BN Memorial.



50th Anniversary: Sua Sponte Foundation and 1st Ranger Battalion hosted past-present-and future rangers to multiple events in the Savannah area.



USASOC CAPEX: 3rd Platoon, Bravo CO and Delta CO enablers demonstrated HAF raids each day of the USA CAPEX at FLNX. The exercise brought together leaders from Congress, the Army, SOCOM, Foreign partners, industry/academia, and benevolent organizations. Of note, Bravo Company maximized repetitions and concurrent training opportunities around FLNC during their time off.



2nd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

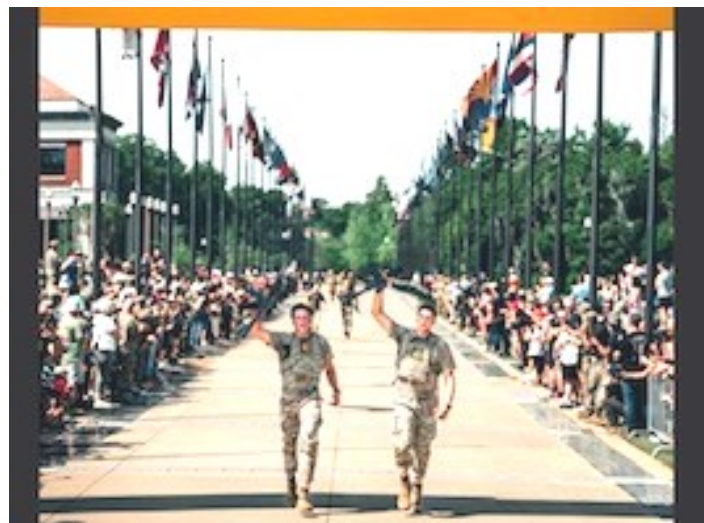
UNIT DIRECTOR—HUGH ROBERTS

Hooah Rang-ers,

With another Best Ranger Competition in the books, the 2nd Battalion teamed up with the 1st Battalion to secure the win.



Cpt Andrew Winski from 2/75 and Sgt Matthew Dunphy from 1/75 are this year's winning team. Congratulations to both and to the regiment for upholding the Ranger standard.



The 2/75 Change of Command ceremony will take place in Normandy, France at Pointe Du Hoc on June 5. Outgoing commander, Col Adam Armstrong, will relinquish command to LTC Peter Leszczynski.

This year's Ranger Hall of Fame inductees include former 2/75 NCOs Frank Grippe, Randy Inman, Victor Ballesteros, and Glen Legg. Congratulations to these well-deserving NCOs.

Here is the updated 50th anniversary event schedule; this still needs to be approved by the incoming commander, so expect changes.

Looking forward to seeing all of you old farts in October.

Gary Presson, a former 2/75 Ranger, was laid to rest in Suffolk, VA. Gary was a 3rd Platoon B Company Ranger. After leaving 2nd Battalion, he was assigned to a SMU.

RIP Ranger Buddy.



2



Save the date!
2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment
50th Anniversary Celebration
October 1-3 2024, JBLM, WA

Tentative schedule of events:

- Tuesday – October 1
 - Meet and greet / registration
 - State of the Battalion
 - Static Displays
 - Tribute to the fallen
 - 50th Anniversary photo
 - Food Trucks
 - MRAZR rides
- Wednesday – October 2
 - Tug of war
 - Shooting competition
 - FRIES demonstration
 - Battalion BBQ
 - 50th Anniversary closing ceremony
- Thursday – October 3
 - Golf Scramble

Please scan the below code to be added to the 2/75 contact list. This is **not** an RSVP. The registration link will be sent out at a later date. If you have any questions, please email 2drangerbattalion@gmail.com.





A/75 - D/17 LRP - LRP - V CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES



Ranger Thomas Lee Brizendine



ner, 3 Rangers and Roseann Alexander. While there, we all went out to eat together on Wednesday and Thursday nights and then Friday morning we all headed back to Kansas, Georgia, Indiana, and Texas. Words about Tom Brizendine: Roy Barree said: *We have lost a great family member! He has moved on to the great home in the sky with our God Almighty!! May God bless his family with needed comfort to overcome their loss! May God bless "us", his Ranger family for the loss of an honorable brother! Steve Thompson said: I am extremely saddened to hear of the loss of another Ranger Brother, Tom Brizendine. Sincerely, my*

heart goes out to him, his wife and family and our worldwide extended family for this tragic passing. May God have blessed him and prepared him for his journey. Knowing that I and all of us remaining hold him in the deepest regard. Regardless of my absences at the previous gatherings that've been held over these recent years, in my heart I felt present at all of the events over the years, whether physically there or not. And to this day I hold "ALL MY RANGER UNIT COMRADES IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM AND WILL DO SO AS LONG AS A BREATH GENERATES FROM MY BREAST. Kid Rivers said: God Bless you Ranger, thanks for being a Patriotic Warrior and defending our Nation and its Freedoms!! See you in Valhalla Brother, RIP RLTW



Picked this up off an email or Facebook, but I don't remember who said it. If you own it let me know. May have been Ranger Black. "My Ranger Buddy was an Animal Veterinarian on his second effort through RS. He was totally shot out the last 2 weeks in Florida and I carried most of his gear except his weapon. Got a plus 25 Pts for that and he finished the course and didn't receive his tab. Will always remind me of the Importance of self will over physical stress."

On March 28, 2024, we laid to rest a Great Ranger and Member of Co A 75th Rangers. Ranger Thomas Lee Brizendine passed away on March 23, 2024, in his home after a long battle with lung cancer. Rangers Eddie Alexander, Gene Gilsdorf, Don VanArsdale, John Mikulak and Stan Jones were present for Ranger Roll Call/Once an Eagle Ceremony, conducted by Ranger Alexander. Donna was very happy to see some of Tom's Ranger buddies attend. We were proud and honored to be a part of the service. He was buried in Coleman Cemetery in Porum, OK., with full military honors conducted by an Honor Guard from Ft. Sill, OK. Tom was in A Co from 72-74 and was in 1st Plt. Tom served 3 tours in Vietnam and retired as a Master Sargent, with 20 of years. He was considered an old man to most of us seeing as he joined the Army in 1959, while most of us were still in kindergarten. And Tom has the legacy of being one of a handful of Leg Rangers. 2 pictures attached: 1 Tom at retirement, 2 John Mikulak, Eddie Alexander, Donna Brizendine, Gene Gilsdorf, Stan Jones, and Don VanArsdale at the church after the funeral din-

Congratulations to Jim and Connie Savell on celebrating 50 years of marriage. From Jim Savell: Fifty Years Ago! I was assigned to A/75th Rangers, Ft Hood, TX. My mom lived in Dallas just north of Love Field. I was divorced a few yrs ago & living in North Carolina never got to see my daughter. My ex-wife lived in Ft Worth. I was getting my daughter for the 1st time for a weekend. She didn't really know who I was. She was 6 yrs old. All day Saturday we hung out. That night we stayed at my mom's. I had seen a small park on Webbs Chapel Rd. Sunday afternoon we went over there. I was pushing her on the swing. I noticed a little girl her age on the merry-go-round being pushed by her mother. I told her to go play with them. I sat in the swing & took a break. After a few minutes, the three came over to the swings & I was back to work pushing my daughter Janice. The mother of the girl named Sherri was named Savell....uh....a few months later. This is how I met Connie.

Continued on the next page

From the Unit Directors meeting on February 3rd; 1. The Association now has a Virtual Assistant, Amanda Neet. She has taken over editing the Magazine and helping with the 75thRRA.org website. 2. Plans put in motion to revise the Association Mission Statement. 3. New dates for the Ranger Hall of Fame, submissions must be in by Nov. 15th to the HoF Board. If anyone wants to try and get one of our members in, NOW is the time to start. It is an extensive process, but as CSM Merritt said, it's worth it. I worked with DJ DeJarnett and Bill Miller, BDQ, trying to get Capt. Nolen in but he didn't make it two years in a row, and we had a good packet. 4. There are 3 By-Laws changes that will be voted on at the next reunion. A. Election of officers by all members, not just those at the reunion. B. Delete the "Active Duty" membership class, as was established to encourage active-duty Rangers to join but has proved unused. C. Update Gold Star to include active duty killed in training. 5. New deadline for Patrolling is 10th instead of the 15th. 6. Looking for ways to increase advertising in the magazine to decrease costs. 7. Next UD meeting, June 3rd. If you have anything Association wise you want brought up, let me know.

EVENT: 19 December 2024 will mark the 50th anniversary of the deactivation of Company A 75th Infantry (RANGER) at Fort Hood, Texas. On November 7, 8 and 9, 2024 a contingent of those remaining members of Alpha company and its predecessor units, D/17 LRP of the 197th Infantry Brigade and Seventh Army's V Corps LRRP, will convene near Waco, Texas for the purpose of remembering their service, reuniting with old friends and teammates and meeting others who served in the unit at different times.

LOCATION: We will be headquartered at the Springhill Suites hotel located at 200 Colonnade Parkway, Woodway, Texas 76712. This hotel is approximately five miles from the property of Jason Savell and Jim Savell who will host a day-long celebration on Saturday, 9 November for all to attend.

THURSDAY: Arrival on 7 November will provide the opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with familiar (and some not so familiar) faces in the hospitality suite of the hotel and share camaraderie. Dinner on this evening will be on your own with many good eateries located close by. The hospitality suite will be ours until the wee hours on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and also on Sunday morning.

FRIDAY: On Friday we will continue at the hotel or if you prefer, there are sights to see in the Waco area. Lunch will be provided in the hospitality room at no individual cost. We intend to have raffles on Friday afternoon with the proceeds going to the reunion fund which pays for the festivities.

SATURDAY: Saturday is set aside for a gathering at the Savell compound located at 284 Possums End, Woodway, Texas. Starting around 0900 hours, the activities for the day will include presentation of the colors by the University High School ROTC cadets preceding an assembly which will provide a forum for those who would like to address the group with stories or other presentations, a memorial reading of the names of our known deceased brothers-in-arms, catered lunch, and time to reflect on our military service as well as lives beyond the military. At past

reunions, the Saturday gathering has lasted into the evening hours. Once all the TRUE stories have been told those who still have wind in their sails can reconvene at the hotel to further embellish the legends of A/75. Did I mention there is a bar located in the hotel just steps away from the hospitality room with happy, smiling bartenders waiting to fill your glass?

SUNDAY: On Sunday, following breakfast, most will depart with fully refreshed memories and possibly some new ones.

RESERVATIONS: To contact the hotel for room reservations you must call 254-732-7979 and identify yourself as a guest of "ACRO" in order to receive the group rate of \$107.00 plus tax (approximately \$120.91 per night). Rooms are available with one King bed or two Queen beds, all are the same price. As of 18 APR, sixteen of our allotted 25 rooms have been reserved, leaving nine.

FROM ED THURMAN: Also, we might want to mention that we are going to make short individual videos (15-30 seconds) of what serving in A/75 meant to them. This could be something that was very meaningful, memorable, or just a funny story. I will make a YouTube video of the results.

NEED A LITTLE HELP? As in the past, the reunion will be funded by donations and as part of the effort to encourage attendance, some of the accumulated money has been designated to offer assistance to those who might find themselves a little short on cash. Approval has been given to pay for transportation to and from the reunion and/or to pay for lodging expenses while in attendance. If this assistance would enable you to attend where otherwise you would be unable contact Roy Bissey at r_bissey@yahoo.com or 307-752-6428 or Eddie Alexander at alexanderej@bellsouth.net or 404-545-6533. Help is strictly confidential. All you have to do is ask.

I'm writing this in April, it will go to print in May and you will be reading it in June, so time is going by at a rapid rate, so don't dally too long to get your reservations. It is already sizing up to be bigger and maybe even better than the last two times we have been to the Savell Compound. The Springhill Suites is a great hotel with several restaurants near by

That's all for now. Send me some stories.

Stan Jones
UD A/75, V Corp LRRP, D/17 LRP



B/75 - C/58 - LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

B/75 – C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

Greetings and Salutations fellow LRRPs, Rangers, and Jayhawks... Please stay safe and stay healthy.

SITREPS:

LEO STARKEY: (From Leo)

April 6: I have been asked, by several of you, about my prostate surgery. Because of the delay by the VA in sending the proper requests to my cardiologist for the surgical clearance I missed two of my surgical dates. They now have everything, and my surgery is scheduled for June 11th. My EDG is on May 28th. On May 31st I do pre-op and June 11th is my surgery followed by a couple days in the hospital.

April 25: Today, I went to see my oncologist and start another round of chemo. However, the doctor informed me that my PSA score had dropped from a 24 to 7.8. Which means that my prostate is now cancer FREE. I still need to have the prostate removed on June 11th and do chemo every two weeks but not three times a week like he was talking about doing. God is good!! - Leo B Starkey

SGM ZEKE EVARO: Now, a verbatim message from SGM Ezequiel Evaro:

"Tell everyone I send my love and appreciation and prayers to all for the get-well cards and phone calls I received while I was down and out. I'm not out of the woods yet, but I see some daylight. My love and prayers for all of you. Stay strong!" SGM Zeke.

In talking with Zeke, he sounds so much better and stronger and I'm sure that together with his spiritual blessings and faith and your best wishes for a sound recovery, he'll win this battle.

Pfc Foster. RJF, VII Corps LRRP Association, President.

MIKE MOSER: While trying to prepare this article, I came across a FB message from Mike Moser. He planned to be visiting this area around 20 April, but unfortunately, I had not signed into FB for a couple of months, and apparently missed him. Probably just as well... We have had no kitchen for some time (the usual construction delays), so the entire house has been a jumble of boxes and bins awaiting repopulation into the kitchen or other areas. The new stove ordered in December has twice been delivered smashed and unusable. We finally received an intact range last week. That may require retraining, as I may not remember how to use a stove... Plus, there have also been some medical and surgical issues for us to attend to. Maybe I'll catch up with Mike at one of the reunions.



A/75 – REUNION & INVITATION – REMINDER – START PLANNING

FROM FOSTER: I'll provide A Co specific info for combined (A/B Co in Waco). I plan on attending both. Your specific and interest input is encouraged. I have been in contact with Ed Thurman and Roy Bissey of A Co, and think this is an idea worthy of OUR consideration since our numbers (both Assoc) are dwindling and the mid/West coast guys are more likely to make the latter. Touchon has said he'll make both and if that rolling stone can make it, all can, barring unfortunate circumstances. Please feel free to forward this to all on your mailing lists (mine may be incomplete).

To you all, God bless you and our departed Brothers.

Sua Sponte, RLW: AIRBORNE!

Dick Foster, President, USA LRRP Assoc (VII Corps)

A/75 – REUNION & INVITATION – REMINDER – START PLANNING

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO JOIN A/75 FOR 50 YEAR PARTY: 7 to 9 November 2024

From: Roy Bissey: "As you well know 2024 will mark the 50th year since Alpha and Bravo 75th Ranger companies were stood down, the last two Ranger companies of the Vietnam era. Alpha company gathered in 2019 and again in March of 2022, the first large scale reunion efforts since 1974 and we had a ball. Jim Savell and his son Jason (and their families) hosted our parties at their place near Waco, Texas and just days after the March reunion was over, volunteered to do it one more time in 2024. It has been proposed and is supported by the Savell's and the rest of our planning group that we invite Bravo company to join us for this 50-year commemoration (that is Bravo Company and its predecessor units, C/58 LRP and VII Corps LRRP). Family members are welcome as well. MSG Savell picked 7 to 9 November 2024 as the dates for the gathering. Typically, we begin by arriving in Waco on Thursday, continuing with festivities at our host hotel on Friday and then the all-day party with a mid-day meal at Savell's on Saturday. We have used a Springhill Suites in Woodway, TX as the headquarters for both of the past reunions and they have been very accommodating of our every need. There is a bar in the hotel, and they allowed us the use of a big meeting room for all three days at no charge. We held raffles on Friday and Saturday with some very nice items donated by members of the company as well as some outside our group.

Continued on the next page

It is still almost one year out and things like the hotel we use may change but our planning group will stay on top of things and ensure that this last bash will be a success. We would very much like to share this experience with any of your men and their families who might be interested in joining us. If you will throw this idea out for consideration among your membership to judge interest, we would appreciate it. You can view videos of the 2019 and 2022 reunions on YouTube by searching A/75 Ranger. If you have questions or suggestions, I am the point of contact and can find answers. **RLTW! Roy Bissey: A/75 1972-1974; UD NOTE: PLEASE CHECK FB GROUPS or contact U.D. for contact phone and email.**



Eldon Bargewell, MACV-SOG, CCN.]

ANNIVERSARY ELDON BARGEWELL'S DEATH

Posted by: Jeff Mellinger

On 29 April 2019, MG(R) Eldon Bargewell passed in a tragic accident at home. He was a warrior like no other. What a terrible loss. Rest in peace, my friend.

Eldon is buried in Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Section 14, Grave 11G @ 32°21'11.7"N 85°01'12.8"W

He was a former commander of Delta Force, and during the Vietnam War, Bargewell was accepted into MACV-SOG where he served at the Command and Control North (CCN) launch site at Da Nang and served as Non-Commissioned Officer Team Leader for Reconnaissance Team "Viper," earning the DSC.

Bargewell was commissioned to second lieutenant, and became a platoon leader in B/75, and later in B Company, 2nd Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry at Fort Lewis.

He spent much of his career in Special Forces and spent seventeen years in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment - Delta.

MG Bargewell was inducted as a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2011 and as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment in 2012.

<https://www.wrbl.com/news/local-news/retired-maj-gen-eldon-a-bargewell-dies-in-east-alabama-lawnmower-accident/>

Posted by Gene Kauffman:

Eyes Behind the Lines: US Army Long-Range Reconnaissance and Surveillance Units

by Major James F. Gebhardt, US Army (Retired)

(NOTE: covers the period from 1957-Current)

Acknowledgments:

I first became involved in long-range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) issues in early September 1967, when I volunteered to attend the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Recondo School at Nha Trang. At the time, I was a 19-year-old rifleman in a mechanized infantry company and badly wanted a change of venue for the remaining six months of my 12-month tour. I was fortunate to graduate from MACV Recondo School, even more fortunate to survive the next six months as a novice LRRP team leader in a newly formed LRRP detachment and return home safely from the war in March 1968. Those six months of LRRP duty were my only exposure to this type of unit in my almost two decades of military service that followed Vietnam. But they have helped me better understand the issues included in this study. My own experience played a role in reflecting on several specific issues and is documented in textual reference endnotes when used.

Another group of LRRP veterans has made an enormous contribution to this study—the men who belong to the VII Corps LRRP Association. They not only have formed an association of USAREUR (United States Army Europe) LRRP veterans (both V and VII Corps) with an Internet presence that conducts periodic reunions, but they also have become archivists of a sort, sending all their clippings, orders, photographs, and other documents to one member, who in turn has loaded them onto a compact disk for public distribution. The current VII Corps LRRP Association president is Kirkland H. Gibson; the archivist is Anselmo Rodriguez. Behind these two men are scores of solid citizens who served in all ranks of the Army from private first class to colonel, in peace and war, many of whom who have shared their time and experiences with me over the Internet.

Continued on the next page

Original article can be downloaded here (187 pages):

https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/gebhardt_LRRP.pdf

LRRPS - FROM Joe Chetwynd:

(On the occasion of CSM Dave Clark's passing):

There will very likely never be another unit like us LRRPs ever again. The new "WOKE / JOKE" army would not tolerate anything like it to exist, and men like Dave Clark, and the many others like him, would also never be promoted to CSM for the very same reasons.

During WWII, the high ranking field officer corps were deathly against so-called "elite" units in their ranks. They did eventually capitulate and formed the newly proposed Airborne forces, the First Ranger Battalion (later known as Darby's Rangers), and, lastly, the First Special Service Force, (the first and only joint USA and Canadian" commando" forces unit). The First SSF was named as such to hide their true identity and mission capabilities. Their name was chosen to suggest they were some sort of USO entertainment troop.

The generals were mostly full and by traditionalists and believed that "every soldier should be considered as elite", even though most front line combat troops were nothing of the kind (with no disrespect intended). It was the same story with the British military. The field commanders, who were dyed-in-the-wool conservative traditionalists, also could not tolerate the men who joined the newly formed Commando units. It was British PM Winston Churchill who wisely decided that the British military needed a small, elite, daring and very deadly force that could execute clandestine attacks on vital German facilities, initially in Norway and Denmark, to begin turning the tide of British defeats in North Africa and at Dunkirk into successful assaults that would create and invigorate the usually stoic British citizenry, who bore their early defeats in typical stiff upper lip fashion.

Among the several elite units to be formed up for the British were the SAS (the Special Air Service). They took the fight to the Germans in the great deserts of Libya, North Africa. The "irregular" troops of the SAS, were allied with their mockingly, but jovially and affectionately named "taxi-service", the men who provided the raiders with vital navigation directions across the vast, featureless deserts. They performed daring night raids against German airfields, infantry, transportation, ammo and petrol dumps, as well as destroying field artillery, tank battalions, and other essential targets of opportunity. Their primary target was the famous German General Erwin Rommel, aka "The Desert Fox", and his Afrika Korps.

Despite their consistently very successful raids, some of the highest ranking officers in the highest British military echelons did everything they could to deactivate these units because they were fighting in a manner considered to be "ungentlemanly", roughish, swashbuckling, and "irregular". Fortunately, for them,

Churchill went to the proverbial wall for "his irregulars" and they remained active and effective throughout the war. Since WWII the SAS has become a necessary and proud military institution.

This same "political dynamic" happened during the early days of our US Paratrooper training. Were it not for the efforts of the 11th Airborne Division showing how effective paratroops could benefit the rest of a military operation, the experiment might well have gone entirely for naught. Then, of course, the tragedies of the Sicily invasion, the Normandy D-Day invasion, and later, the Holland "Market Garden" jumps gave more fuel for the "Regular Army" commanders to want to put an end to the "special troops" units. Amazingly, the change came from Operation Varsity, the largest airborne assault of the war, during the crossing of the Rhine River and into the Ruhr Valley. Although this jump suffered some of the largest and most horrific casualties, the operation was ultimately declared to be the most successful of the entire war. To that end, as the war in Europe was winding down, there were already plans afoot to organize an Airborne assault into Japan. That was mercifully avoided by the dropping of the two atomic bombs.

What is not generally known about these WWII era paratrooper units is that, within them, there were several smaller, elite units known as pathfinders and demolition teams who all jumped well ahead of the major drops, and all of which suffered proportionately higher rates of casualties from day one. Another fact of life for the "elites" was that the front line commanders loved to get ahold of these Rangers, paratroops, and "insurgents" to fill in their lines to replace their own troops lost in the last battle. In most cases, these highly trained troops were only so much "cannon fodder" as far as those commanders were concerned. In many cases, these "elite troops" were simply misused.

JTC

To Absent Friends:

Until next time... V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director



E/75 - E/50 - LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—DUANE L. ALIRE

Gentlemen, family, and friends:

Memorial Day in Washington: As I write this report I am preparing to travel to Washington D.C. for the Memorial Day Weekend. The purpose of the trip is to support Brent Gulick (April 1970-August 1970) in presenting a floral wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor and recognize all Vietnam era LRRPs and Rangers on Memorial Day.

The trip coordinator is Deputy E50/E75 Unit Director Bob Hernandez. He reports that we will be joined by Jeff and Cindy Moehle (parents of Joe Moehle, who coordinated our 2023 Reunion in Green Bay), Joe's brother, Lt. Colonel Jason Moehle (who is stationed at JB Andrews), Tyrone Muse (October 1967-April 1969) and his god son, David Walker, and Byron Jones (November 1969-October 1970) and his wife, Delores, and their two children.

Brent and his son *Led The Way* several years ago by placing the first E50/E75 wreath at the Memorial honoring LRRPs and Rangers.



BRENT AND HIS SON

In addition to participating in the wreath presentation and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day ceremonies, we will tour the White House.

E50/E75 Legacy Project: We continue to solicit personal stories



from the guys in support of our Legacy Project. In a previous report we introduced Paul B. Fitzsimons (January 1969-March 1970), who is currently an architect in Traverse City, Michigan. This is his story of a stay behind mission in the Mekong Delta.

16 September 1969. E Company, Team ?, working out of FSB Tan An. Dineen TL Paul Fitzsimons M-60

At the time, I was the only M-60 man in the Company and would periodically get "invited" out on missions with other Teams. This night was my 21st birthday, Team 24 (my Team) was on stand down and I got the request to come on a stay-behind mission in a hot area west of Tan An. These particular missions were favorites, as you were able to insert secretly, then witness a whole area come back to its' normal state after a large body of troops departed. In the wide-open Delta region, it was difficult to experience this by any other method of insertion.

This afternoon we joined an eagle flight that was extracting a line Company that had been sweeping the area all day. On the approach we hid in the chopper as best we could and upon landing, slid out amongst the stares of the Infantrymen, into a concealed spot on the edge of a woodline, overlooking rice paddies and a number of hooches in the distance.

Within minutes of the Infantry's extraction, we began to see people move everywhere and life began to return to normal. Not long afterwards a group of men began to increase in size and weapons were starting to show up. With some daylight remaining, the group grew to about 30 and they started to move our way. As was typical of most of the Delta region, we could observe all of this from several hundred meters away and have time to develop a plan for the contact. When it became apparent that we picked the right location to intercept this enemy force, we scrambled gunships and passed the word that contact would be initiated when the choppers were 5 minutes out. With a group this size, we were not interested in waiting until they were upon us to begin the engagement. This would only add an element of risk that was not needed. The odds were 5 to 1, but in this terrain, with well-coordinated gunship support, we were in complete control of the situation.

The enemy was within 100 meters when the gunships verified that they were about 5 minutes out, and we opened up. I had hooked 500 rounds to the M-60 and nearly fired them all in one burst. I did know better, but things were a bit exciting. Flames were coming out of the barrel and the extractor port, but being able to sustain fire while everyone fumbled to replace magazines was why they "invited" me, so I didn't disappoint them.

Continued on the next page

The group was in disarray, as they were suddenly caught in open country. A few tried to return fire, but most were trying to find the exit.

As we had planned, a Cobra and LOH showed up and took command of the situation, attacking the enemy at will. Bodies were reported everywhere, hooches were burning and total destruction was accomplished in just a few minutes. They remained in the area as night fell and we attempted to call for an extraction, which was denied, because command wanted us to conduct a body count. Our position was compromised and a 6 man attack team is at great risk trying to sweep an open battlefield right after a fight, but the deed was done and we packed up and proceeded to carefully move thru the area, noting that many of the bodies that the choppers had seen from the air had already been retrieved, as was the custom.

Several hooches were on fire from the tracer rounds, and as we walked within 15 to 20 meters from one that was totally engulfed in flames, I saw a shape from the corner of my eye. As I looked over, I saw that a water buffalo was bolting on a dead run through the door, directly at me. It was about 3 feet wide at the belly and even though it wasn't charging me intentionally, I knew, in a moment, he would run me over and I would certainly be dead. I had just time to swing the M-60 around, got 3 shots out of it and watched the buffalo go from a full charge to dead at my feet. The whole event happened in probably 3 to 5 seconds and was one of those real close brushes with death that would pop up periodically and leave you shuddering for a few days afterward. Quite a birthday present.

After those final 3 shots, my M-60 was dead (I dropped a steel bar down the barrel the next day and pounded it with a sledgehammer, but the bolt was completely frozen), so during our resupply I requested an AK-47, with ammo. A few others were carrying AK's and put in orders for more magazines. We found out later that the division command was monitoring us, and the top brass was steaming about hearing us order enemy ordnance over the air. Coupled with complaints from the helicopter pilots about not knowing where we were in firefights, because we were firing more green and white tracers than red ones, it didn't take long before word came down, that we were no longer allowed to carry the AK, or any other enemy weapons.

I'm not sure how many bodies we reported in all. Whatever it was, it wasn't worth the risk, but, overall, it made for a memorable night.

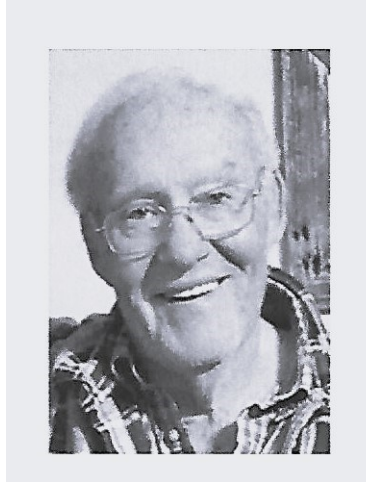
The odd thing about war, is that despite of all the human carnage, the need to kill the water buffalo was quite disturbing.

Note: In 2011 I read the book *The Secret War Against Hanoi* and learned that the CIA and Army SOG (Studies and Observation Group, or better known as Special Operations Group) were conducting operations in South and North Vietnam and Laos in the late 60's to introduce booby trapped AK-47's, mortars and ammo into the enemy's hands as

part of the psychological warfare program. They would do this by salting enemy weapons caches and replacing dead soldiers' weapons with defective ones.

There was a reported incidence where an American soldier was seriously wounded by one of these and I can now appreciate that we were better off not using captured ordinance.

Sick Call: The following guys are on sick call: Tyrone Muse, David Stone, and Lonnie Johnson. If you know these guys their contact information is in our directory.



Danny Phillips

Lest We forget: I am saddened to report the passing of Danny C. Phillips, 77 of Gays, Illinois on March 14, 2024. Danny was born on October 13, 1946, the son of Donald and Daisy (Kinnaman) Phillips. He worked as a machinist for General Electric.

His family reports that Danny was a proud Vietnam Veteran. He was drafted and served from 1966-1967. He was an army man of the 9th Infantry Division. He patrolled deep into enemy-

held territory as a long range reconnaissance patrolman.

Bob Hernandez wrote: "Poncho, Danny volunteered for the LRRPs and was one of the originals when the recon platoon was organized in the fall of 1966 at Fort Riley, KA. He trained with the newly formed LRRPs in Panama before being deployed to Vietnam in the advance party in January 1967. He was a good team player and always preferred to walk point. He will be missed."

In the below-photograph, Danny is on the left, Bob Hernandez is in the middle, and Ray Hulin is on the right.



Feature Article – This is the 78th year of my life and the 56th year since I slogged through the tropical jungles and muddy swamps of IV Corps Tactical Zone (Vietnam’s southernmost) as a trooper of E50 long range reconnaissance patrol

I lived through January 31, 1968 (TET), May, 1968 (TET II) and January 1968 through January 1969. 1968 was, as my fellow E50 LRRP, SSG Sal DiSciascio, once wrote, “It was the seminal event of my life”. It changed everything that followed.

Washington Post writer, Joel Achenbach, captures a microcosm of the events and their lasting impact on Americans best in his newspaper article on Sunday, May 27, 2018 titled: *The men killed on a single, bloody day in Vietnam, May 25, 1968, and the haunting wall that memorializes them.*

Let us not forget.

Poncho

The Washington Post Sunday, May 27, 2018: The men killed on a single, bloody day in Vietnam, May 25, 1968, and the haunting wall that memorializes them by Joel Achenbach.

John H. Anderson Jr. had just turned 20 years old when he arrived in Vietnam on the last day of April in 1968. Like so many of the 500,000 Americans who served in Vietnam in 1968, he’d been drafted. The young soldier, who lived in Wellsville, Pa., arrived in Southeast Asia at a moment of peak violence. The communists had launched a May offensive, also known as mini-Tet. American generals were aggressively pushing a counter-offensive. May 1968 would turn out to be the bloodiest month of the bloodiest year for Americans in Vietnam.

Pfc. Anderson served in the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, and was soon engulfed in fighting in the northern part of the country, near the ancient imperial capital of Hue. He survived less than four weeks. He was killed in a place named Nui Ke, known as Hill 618.

At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, Anderson’s name is the first one visitors see as they approach the west side of the iconic black wall. If they come from the east, the first name they encounter belongs to Jessie C. Alba, a sergeant from Port Lavaca, Tex., who served in the 101st Airborne Division and was killed near Hue in a mortar attack.

Alba was engaged to be married, and his fiancée, Mary Ann Lopez, once penned a tribute to him online. “Even now,” she wrote, “after so many years past, I still think of him and what our lives, could of been.” She visited the memorial in 1996 at night. “It was so overwhelming for me,” she remembered. “The wall is so huge and very scary, in a way. I finally found his name, and how ironic it was that his name is the last one, almost all by itself at the end.” Like Anderson, Alba was 20 years old. Anderson and Alba had something else in common: Both were killed on May 25, 1968, half a century ago.

The midpoint of the war, as measured in the 58,000 American lives lost, is how visitors encounter the wall. Architect Maya Lin conceived of the wall when, as a senior at Yale working on a class project, she visited Washington and saw the site of the

proposed Vietnam War memorial. “I had a simple impulse to cut into the earth,” she wrote in *The New York Review of Books*. “I imagined taking a knife and cutting into the earth, opening it up, an initial violence and pain that in time would heal.”

She had another idea, also radical: The names would be chronological rather than alphabetical. That proved controversial, like so much else about the design. Lin initially figured the chronology would be left to right when facing the wall, starting in 1959 and ending in 1975. But at a professor’s urging she changed the design to make the chronology of deaths begin and end at the apex, creating a closed loop.

The single most lethal day of the war for American troops was January 31, 1968, when 246 personnel were killed or mortally wounded as the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army regulars launched the Tet Offensive.

But if you had to pick a random date to represent the U.S. combat experience in Vietnam, May 25 would be a defensible choice. It was a day of hard, relentless fighting all over South Vietnam, from the Mekong Delta to the demilitarized zone, and much of that combat has been overlooked by historians or overshadowed by more famous events such as the Battle of Hue or the siege of Khe Sanh earlier in the year.

Ronald Spector, a professor of history and international relations at George Washington University, remembers visiting a Marine base near the DMZ during his 1968-69 tour as a Marine corporal.

“During my brief unhappy stay there, because it was in artillery range, it used to be shelled right around lunchtime,” said Spector, author of “After Tet: The Bloodiest Year in Vietnam.” He said the high casualty rate in 1968 led to a great deal of fatalism day in and day out. “You’re counting the days until you’re going home,” he said. “You wanted to accomplish the mission, whatever the mission was, and get back alive.”

The brutal May fighting was inextricably connected to the peace talks that had gotten underway in Paris. Both sides in Vietnam had intensified their efforts to inflict casualties, hoping to influence the talks.

The Viet Cong had suffered heavy losses in the Tet Offensive, and the U.S. generals and the South Vietnamese government wanted to press their perceived military advantage and regain control of rural areas. Field commanders received an order to go all-out “kind of a pep talk,” one military spokesman said in downplaying press accounts of the order.

Vietnam rarely had set-piece battles but, rather, was seen by the United States as a war of attrition, with success measured in body counts and kill ratios. The United States had vastly superior firepower, including air dominance. But combat success for the Americans did not seem to sap the fervor of the communists, who saw this as a fight to the death against an occupying power.

“It is better to die than to be a slave. There is nothing more precious than freedom and independence,” North Vietnam’s president, Ho Chi Minh, told the National Assembly on May 24.

Continued on the next page

Those words about freedom and independence became famous — and could be seen decades later on billboards in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), noted Meredith Lair, a George Mason University historian who teaches and writes about the Vietnam War.

She said the American war of attrition in Vietnam “involves this kind of aimless, open-ended campaign to inflict as much damage on the enemy as possible so that at some future point in time they give up,” including abandoning the idea of a unified Vietnam. “They were simply not going to do that.”

The United States inflicted heavy losses on the communists, but that didn’t translate into strategic success. As 1968 progressed, public opinion in the United States pivoted against the war.

“The enemy has not conceded defeat. There is no sense of geographic progress being made as in World War II. There is increasing concern on the home front that the war may not in fact be winnable,” said Gregory Daddis, a retired Army colonel and now a professor at Chapman University.

By May 1968, he said, with upward of 500 Americans dying every week in Vietnam, many Americans were asking: “Why are we still fighting? Why is the enemy not giving up? Why are we still being asked to sacrifice more?” More Americans died in May — 2,403 — than in any other month of the war.

As for May 25, 2018, that brutal Saturday half a century ago, the names of the fallen go from A to Z, from Jessie C. Alba to Robert E. Zeske. There are 87 names in between.



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F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE

Company F Patrolling

Once again, a small article. Company F off-year reunion in Branson Missouri with them on June 4- 9, 2024.

Company F headquarters will be the Dutton Inn, 3454 W. HWY 76 Country Blvd. Branson, MO 65616
tel: 888-388-8661
fax: 417-339.4900

We have 30 rooms set aside for your F Company 75th Rangers Reunion group.

Here's the timeline:

Guests may call Valerie or Debbie in the Groups Department to make their reservation - Call us: Mon-Fri. 417-332-2772 Please have them tell us they are with F Company coming to the Dutton



Inn, June 2024.

Room rate - \$88/night + tax. Includes hot breakfast 7-9AM each morning. Please have a credit card ready in order to hold your reservation. We do not charge the card until you check in.

May 15, 2024 Last day to make a reservation. On May 16th, any unreserved rooms will be released.

If you plan on attending, you must register with the LRRP on the website LRRP.ORG. If your membership with the LRRP is in Active Status you can expect to receive a separate email with your Rally Registration fee discount (coupon) code very soon. The plan is to

open registration for the Rally on February 1st and close registration at midnight, April 30th. The cost of registration, between these two dates, will be \$125.00. After April 30th, registration will be \$150.00. If you don't register online or through the postal system, never fear, you can always register in person at the rally.

I hope that we have a great turn out for our unit. I have spoken to some of our original LRRPs and this is probably the last unit reunion they will attend so it might be the last time you get to see some of your old friends. WE ARE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER!



Left Photo:

Marshall Huckaby presented our own Joe Cassilly with the Honor of Saint Maurice, an award established by the National Infantry Association. Joe is truly deserving of his honor. He represents everything that is great in a Elite Army Soldier. Nothing ever held I back from making a difference to his country. He epitomizes the Ranger Motto "Sua Sponte"

RLTW!



G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



Obituary: Neal J Owen of Arkansas died September 20, 2021 at the age of 77. Neal was drafted and made a career in the Army. He served with G Company. We just recently learned of his death. Neal Owens, Jr. (SFC, USARMY Ret.), 77, passed away Monday, September 20, 2021 at home, with his son, Roger, by his side.

Neal was born July 21, 1944 to Neal Owens, Sr. and Marie (De Berry) Owens. He was a native of Little Rock, Arkansas who grew up in Benton, Kentucky. Neal was a graduate of Benton High School, Class of '62. He was a veteran of the United States Army having been drafted in 1967. Neal retired after serving 24 years with the US Army which included one tour to Vietnam. During active duty Neal was an Airborne Ranger, Drill Sergeant, Pathfinder and Air Assault Instructor. He received numerous medals, ribbons and awards during his military career, some of which included: Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal (7th Award), NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm with two GS Bars, Overseas Service Ribbon (2), Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), Ranger Tab, Drill Sergeant Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 OCC), Pathfinders Badge, German Army Marksmanship Award in Bronze and Expert (Rifle). Neal was a Master Mason, Lodge 946 in Kentucky, life member of the DAV as well as VFW Post 6602 and member of the American Legion Post 168. He was a resident of "Nealville" in Hinesville, Georgia for 30 years where he incited mischief and tomfoolery along with camaraderie and wisdom for others at the VFW (which was his favorite place to be). Neal lived under the precedence that "Everyday is a holiday and every meal is a feast". He was of the Methodist faith.

This next article is as much about Hotel Company Rangers as it is about G Company. This is information that I came across in the past few months. The last two Rangers killed in Vietnam were assigned to Hotel Company. Sgt. Elvis Weldon Osborne, Jr (OZZIE) of Dallas, Texas, and CPL Jeffrey Alan Maurer. On June 9, 1972, Osborne and Maurer were tasked to check out a bunker. As they approached the bunker, they were both killed by an explosive device. An investigative report could not determine if the explosion was command detonated or a booby trap. The death of these two Rangers was instantaneous.

The connection to G Company is for Elvis "Ozzie" Osborne. Sgt Osborne went to Ranger School with several Ranger School graduates that were assigned to G Company. After graduating Ranger School, most of the graduates who had completed the NCO Academy, Jump School and Ranger School together, were sent to Vietnam. I know several Rangers who were assigned to Lima Company, Hotel Company, and of course, Golf Company. I believe it was simply the luck of the draw as to where the re-



cently "Tabbed" Rangers ended up. There were at least 12 Rangers sent to Golf Company. I doubt that many of our G Company guys knew that "Ozzie" was KIA, and the last Ranger killed in Hotel Company and Vietnam.

Having trained together at the NCO Academy, Jump School, and Ranger School, we all were generally a close group. My research as to The G Company Rangers is likely incomplete and may lack a few names. I do know that the following list shows most of the group who were assigned to G Company after completing Ranger School.

- Mike Morehead
- George Hatcher
- David McClain
- Bob Hood
- Jim Parker
- Tim Wagman
- Keith Cunningham
- Jose Cuevas-Velez
- Nelson Peloquin (Deceased)
- Bruce Davison
- Larry Herbst
- Al Stewart



We were a close group after going through several challenging schools together and then going through the G Company Recon School after being assigned to G Company.

Again, I apologize if I left someone off this list. Most of this information was from memory.

I hope that all on this list are healthy and happy. If you know the status of any of these Rangers, please let me know.

Al



H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



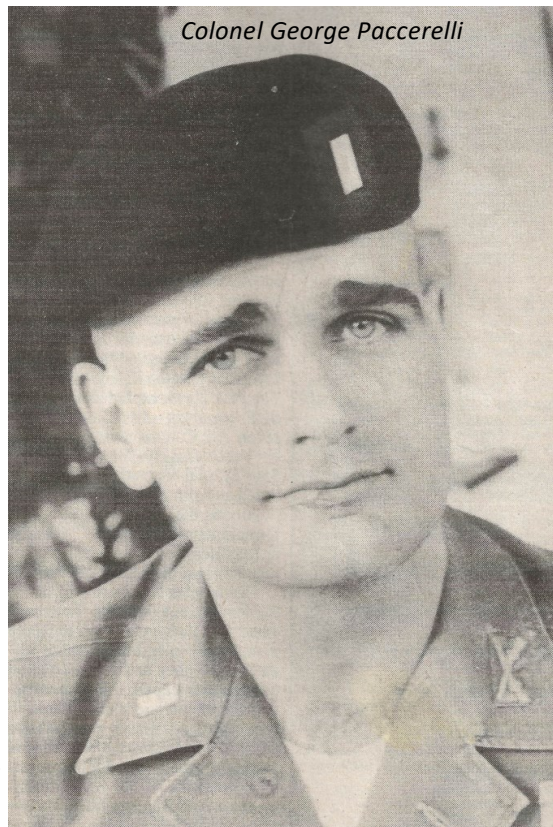
Pete Dencker

A while back I started to write about the progression/history of Company Commanders of E/H Company that were in command for a reasonable length of time beginning with Jim James and running through my time in '70,'71, and '72

which was just about the end of our presence as a unit in RVN. We were the last Ranger Company to leave and following my departure in the summer of 72, my classmate and great friend Bob Hoffman took over as CO for the last few months prior to the Colors being returned to Kileen, TX and the 1st Cav where they were retired, and a few years later reinstated along with the 2nd Ranger Battalion HQ. As a result, I was lucky enough to interview some of the prior CO's while they were still alive, but today that's becoming more of a challenge. The result is talking to Company members that were there while these men were in command to get some insight into their leadership style and their impact on the Unit, along with articles and books that have been published. The next CO in line for me to cover would be George Paccereilli, and although George passed away in 2017, I've been impressed with the volume of information readily available about him. The only thing that impresses me more, based on those I've spoken with augmented by what I've read – is the man himself, his concept of Leadership and what that meant to E/H company and the Rangers that were part of his command. I've had a chance to speak with a number of you, and the reaction when asking about George was always the same. He was a Ranger's Ranger if there ever was one.



26 years in the United States Army. Col. Paccereilli was honored by a grateful nation with his induction into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame in 1993, in recognition of his innovative leadership that saved countless American lives and enhanced the effectiveness of the Rangers. Col. Paccereilli was born on June 25, 1936, in San Diego, California to Louis Paccereilli, who later retired as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy, and Ethel Tingley Paccereilli. He married his high school sweetheart, Barbra Helen Auiler, on December 22, 1956. They had two sons, George A. Paccereilli II and Louis J. Paccereilli, both of whom carried on the family tradition by serving in the Air Force and the Navy, respectively. He joins his beloved Barbra, parents, sister Darlene, and brother Corky who passed before him. After



Colonel George Paccereilli

Colonel George Anthony Paccereilli, Army Special Forces, Army Ranger, Professor, beloved father, grandfather, devoted son, and brother was called from us unexpectedly on January 24, 2017, in Colville, Washington. We celebrate his new eternal life, but we will miss his wisdom, smile, good sense, and leadership that carried his family, soldiers, and students through the challenges of life. The nation also mourns the passing of this great hero who answered the call of duty to country for

returning from his third tour in Vietnam, he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in history prior to his retirement from the Army after 26 highly distinguished years in service. He discovered his joy in teaching and began a second career teaching vocational training, then a broad range of History courses, while earning a Doctorate Degree (Ph.D.) in History. Somehow, he managed to actively participate in supporting veterans, including some conservative political activity, earning him the Republican Legion of Merit, the most prestigious level of membership in the Republican party. Col. Paccereilli began his army career as an enlisted man in 1952, serving in artillery, infantry, airborne, and Special Forces (Green Berets). His first combat tour was in 1961 in Laos as a Special Forces adviser. He went on to Infantry Officer Candidate school in 1963, graduating on the Commandant's List, then completed Army Ranger School. He returned to Vietnam in 1966, where after recovering from wounds incurred four months into this tour, he served with MACV Special Operations Group (SOG) for the remaining eight months of his tour. The general public became aware of SOG missions in the movie "Apocalypse Now." In 1968, he returned to Vietnam for this third and final tour. In this tour, he was instrumental in returning the Rangers to the extraordinary and legendary soldiers they have been known for since the Revolutionary War.

Continued on the next page

He commanded Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne), better known for their missions as Long-Range Reconnaissance (LRRP) Teams. He retrained, reorganized, transforming the Rangers into a force that dominated the III Corps Tactical Zone, carrying the battle to the North Vietnamese Army. During this time, Gregg P. J. Jorgenson served under Colonel Paccereilli. Mr. Jorgenson later authored books about his experiences as a LRRP, including one where he pushed the story of then Captain Paccereilli to the forefront of the story; "LRRP Company Command." Col. Paccereilli is also mentioned in numerous books about the Vietnam experience. Col. Paccereilli was awarded so many decorations that he filled a footlocker with them. His son George would ask him why he kept them away in a footlocker, he simply replied, "I was just doing my job." His decorations, most for valor, included: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Air Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (with Silver Star).

I would like to thank Gregg Jorgenson – for the time and effort expended to research and write the "Behind the Lines" article in the spring of 1994, Slashing Talon Six – George Paccereilli: A Lesson in Leadership and Way of Life. There's really not much more that I can possibly write or say about George that Gregg hasn't already written and certainly better than I could ever write – so I will pull some of the pieces of this article in an attempt to capture a sense of the "man" in a shorter version of Gregg's article. If you haven't already read this article, I would suggest that you find and read it (I'm happy to scan and send it to any E/H Company member that would like to receive it as I can't seem to find it online). Again, Thanks Gregg – for your work in putting this together.

George Paccereilli was known by most via his call sign – Slashing Talon Six, and by his history prior to his time with H Company. George was a "Mustang Officer" – a former enlisted soldier who worked his way up through the ranks and was finally awarded a commission because of his leadership ability and achievements – George was also Special Forces qualified.

As a Special Forces Staff Sergeant George served in Laos in 1961 assisting the pro-Western Laotians in their fight against the Pathet Lao. In 1963 George completed OCS, and Ranger School then was sent to Germany where he served as an Infantry platoon leader and subsequently transferred to a Special Forces A Team. George spent the next few years in the Army getting caught up with his education. In 1966 he returned to RVN with the 5th Special Forces Group as an A Team leader at Dak Seang. It was there leading a combat assault that George was confronted by an NVA soldier who wounded him with a bayonet before George was able to put a few rounds in his chest. As he continued to push his Team to complete the mission there was still heavy fighting taking place, and George was shot in the arm by a retreating NVA soldier. After the mission was successfully completed George was evacuated to Japan with serious wounds that would take time to heal.

After spending time in the States recovering, George was assigned as an Infantry Company Commander at Ft Ord CA but

believed that it was a soldier's place to fight in a war zone and there was still a war going on and that was where he belonged. So, in 1968 Passarelli returned to Vietnam and was assigned as the Commander of the 1st Cav's Long Range Reconnaissance Company – soon to become H Company, 75th. George was responsible for reorganizing the structure of the Company. He created an in-country training program for new members of the unit. It was a 3-week program that covered every aspect of jungle operations including those of the enemy. Trainees would also participate in a vigorous course of physical training and conditioning. He wanted the new volunteers to get the benefit of what his experienced operators had learned and additionally what he had learned in the field.

Paccereilli's leadership and experience was appreciated by all. George was especially thankful for the pilots and crews who inserted and extracted the Teams – often under less-than-ideal conditions, and always with great skill and daring. "He wasn't about to leave any crew members or their bodies behind if he had a chance to do anything about it" said Howard Shute of Pittsburgh PA who had served several years with H Company. George Paccereilli was the kind of person you wanted on your side. He wasn't one to give up or let us give up on ourselves. You had to admire the man because he cared about "the" job, and he cared about the people doing it. It's funny, because over the years I came to realize something that my team leader, Craig Leerburg once told me about Paccereilli. Leerburg said that sometimes we might not like what Captain Paccereilli had to teach but that it was always necessary. Looking back on it now, I'd have to say Leerburg was right, and that George Paccereilli was a teacher in the best sense of the word, because he cared.

George was a history bug – and concerned that the war was being managed in Washington where opinion polls, election results, and job security were the real issues. The reality of POWs in Vietnam, soldiers fighting and dying, and the fact that these soldiers were expected to work within the parameters set by "non-fighters" did not set well with George.

"You knew it bothered him because it went against his own personal code of conduct – I think it was about that time when I began to realize that in many respects George Paccereilli was a unique individual and not just someone filling a position. Brennan a West Point graduate and former platoon leader with H Co, 75th recalled how during a time when words such as duty, honor and country were being tossed around carelessly, George Paccereilli was the one who stepped in to give them meaning. One of the first lessons he drilled into his officers was to value the men in our platoons and never take their lives or the dangerous jobs they were doing for granted.

Time and time again he reminded us of our obligation to look after their safety and welfare, because there would be others in positions of power that would be indifferent to their worth. He was tough, loyal, and an exceptional leader. He instilled confidence in his people by helping them become the best they could be, and in a Ranger Company, that's saying a great deal.

Continued on the next page

There are many more stories and comments in the article – too many to mention here but they are all similar in praise and respect for George Paccereilli. In 1993 George was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, and in typical George fashion he remarked “getting into the Hall of Fame was easy with the caliber of people I had in that Company.”

There is so much more to read in this article – Thank you Gregg for helping us understand the man, and what drove him to be one of the greatest leaders of H Company during the Vietnam War.

RLTW



LOOKING TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION INVOLVED?

Our **Community Partners** are businesses and fellow non-profit organizations that we've teamed up with to assist transitioning and transitioned Rangers through avenues like finding employment, getting into grad school, navigating VA benefits, etc. These are groups that actively value Rangers and see their worth. Similarly, our **Ranger-Friendly Careers** are companies who go beyond saying they are "veteran-friendly" but actively want to hire veterans- and many specifically seek out former Rangers.

Email info@threerangersfoundation.org to learn more!

BECOME A MENTOR



Mentorship is one of the most impactful ways we can assist our veterans. A **TRF mentor** is a veteran of the 75th Ranger Regiment who also has had other life experiences outside the military, with a willingness to help build connections, share experiences, and assist in setting realistic expectations. A mentor can provide the guidance similar to what you got from your 1st and 2nd line supervisors.

Mentors are from a variety of industries. Few transitioning veterans have a set career path upon leaving the military but do have a desire to find job satisfaction and worthwhile work similar to the life they had in Regiment.

Just like Regiment, this is an all-volunteer organization. Please complete the application form if you feel you can make a difference by serving as a mentor. You don't need to have all of the answers - you need to be prepared to listen and have a genuine desire to make a difference.





I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Having just returned from the 1st Infantry 75th Ranger Reunion in Colorado Springs I feel it appropriate to dedicate this issue to our long serving Treasurer John Candiloro. He served with distinction. He never complained but he always kept his nose to the grindstone for over 16 years. We Salute you John and thank you for your dedicated service.

The reins of Treasurer were handed over to Tom McMahon of Long Island, New York. Tom was excited to be nominated and unanimously voted into this important position. He drove his new truck 2,000 miles across the country to the convention while picking up President Dave Hill along the way. They shared unique stories of visiting Ft. Riley Kansas and the wonderful reception given by the 1st Infantry Division to former LRRP/Rangers. They were escorted as VIPs throughout the base and had great reports on the state of today's Military.

Other Reunion Reflections

The Aldays both Cheryl and Gerald went "above and beyond "



with this year's reunion. The event was held in the shadow of Pikes Peak snow capped mountain. Geographically we were situated between the United States Air Force Academy and Ft. Carson (home of the 4th Infantry division). The attendance was fantastic as new faces joined the old guard with wives, children and relatives sharing memories. Members had the opportunity to attend the National Aviation Museum of WWII; The National Rodeo Museum and park; the Garden of the Gods Pikes Peak; the Broadmoor Hotel and Golden Bee lounge or partake in a historic ride on the Royal Railroad considered one of the most picturesque rides in

America.

Yes, we had a vibrant hospitality room within a beautiful hotel. I will let the photos tell the remainder of the reunion with our new Patrolling Editor.

Business- Election of Tom McMahon as Unit Treasurer. Report on transition of editorial responsibilities to Amanda Neet. Report on zoom meetings with National Officers. Report on how base name changes and destruction/removal of memorials have swept across the nation and now "cult type" individuals or groups are using social media to participate in tearing down America's Heroes by accessing military and personnel records and manipulating facts and figures to further discredit or change American history to their agenda.

Next Years Reunion - Henry "Frenchy" Squire has volunteered to be the host. He has not established the place and time as of this publication, but we are almost certain it will be held in Louisiana.



ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Follow Up:

By Bob Reitz

About six years ago I got a call from Angela Di Mattio. She asked if I remembered her. I said no! Then she explained she had met me at 1Sgt Harry Stewarts funeral. Stu was my Ranger Team Sergeant in 1967-1968 with the 35th Ranger Battalion, ARVN. Before he returned to the USA he was decorated by the Vietnamese, and Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart by the US Army. How could I forget him? Still, I didn't remember her, so I asked what I could do for her. I was stunned when she asked me to swear her in the Army with the oath of office as a 2nd Lt. I of course said "Hell Yes and can I wear my Class A uniform? No. She said, "Dress Blues." Ouch! That was \$302 plus all the stuff that goes with the blues. Ok, so I gained a little weight.

Angie had graduated with a degree in physical science plus a heavy emphasis on military Science and was to be commissioned into Military Intelligence. Fort Benning (now Fort Moore) had her first up. So here was this gorgeous young lady in Dress Blues. All the others to be commissioned had a Major General to do the swearing in duty. With Angie left standing there on stage I moved to the edge of the stage and told those attending who she was and that her Grandfather Stu, was quite a hero currently residing with the Big Ranger in the Sky. And I was sitting in for him. Got a "Hooah" from the audience. So, I helped place the "Brown Bars" on her with the aid of Jane Stewart, Stu's widow. I wasn't supposed to help, but Angi is 5' 10" and Jane couldn't reach without Angie flexing her knees.

Now here is the rest of the story. I found out that Angi had competed in two international physical fitness competitions. Arnold



International Body Building competition where she took 1st place, and the second competition was the Iron Man Competition. On the first try, she took second place, but she returned and won 1st place. Simply Amazing!

That's not all!

Stationed at Fort Carson, CO, she was assigned to the 4th Division Military Intelligence (obviously) where in addition to her duties she coached body building at the post gym. At this time, she asked her boss and got permission to compete in the Miss Colorado pageant (USA). Of course she won! Then she met Creston Veigh, also a body builder. They married, which meant she abdicated her throne.

Of course, this story does not end here, because she got permission to compete in the "Mrs. Colorado" contest and, of course, she won.

Now a Captain US Army she is transferring to the Space Command.

What a privilege to know her. So, I ask "What's Next?"

Robert A. Reitz

Col INF Retired

Please send me some interesting stories of you time as a BDQ Advisor

Biet Dong Quan Sat!

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

The 2025 Best Ranger Competition is the 41st anniversary of this grueling competition, starring the best soldiers of the world, our United States Army, RANGERS! The Best Ranger Competition was started in 1982 after Dick Leandri found a way to honor his personal friend, Lieutenant General David E. Grange, Jr.

The competition has evolved over the past 40+ years from one that was originally created to salute the best two-man "buddy" team in the Ranger Department at Fort Benning, GA to today, where we determine the best two-man team from the entire United States Armed Forces.

The Best Ranger Competition is a US Army event supported by The National Ranger Association, Inc. (501 c-3: 58-2023357). The Association was formed in 1998 and is governed by a board of six. The Association was established to recognize distinguished members in the Ranger community and to promote the values established in the Ranger Creed. The National Ranger Association helps to raise funds to support events surrounding The Best Ranger Competition, The Ranger Hall of Fame and the Distinguished Member of the Brigade. Contact Travis Pheanis for more information on how you can contribute to The National Ranger Association.

Register your commitment to support the 2025 Best Ranger Competition.





CALLING ALL 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERS!

**SHARE YOUR LEGACY IN OUR
UPCOMING BOOK**

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is proud to announce the creation of a comprehensive book celebrating the rich history and personal stories of our esteemed members. This is your opportunity to contribute to a lasting tribute that honors your service and the legacy of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

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Special Notice to LRRP Company Rangers: LRRP Company Rangers, please make sure to submit information for this publication. We want every VN LRRP company to have a section, and any individual that wants a bio and pics please send the info by 30AUG24 to art.attaway@75thrra.org.

Submission Details:

Deadline: 30AUG24

Email: art.attaway@75thrra.org

Format: Include your name, company, dates of service, and any relevant details.

Rangers, be part of this comprehensive historical record of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Your contributions will enrich our publication and ensure that the bravery and dedication of the 75th Ranger Regiment are remembered and celebrated. Don't miss this chance to make your mark on this historic project.

Submit Your Information Today!

For questions or further details, please contact art.attaway@75thrra.org.

Thank you for your service and your support in preserving our proud history.



L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—CHARLES “CHUCK” REILLY



Gentlemen,

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner. The years are flying by faster than I can keep up with. Luckily, I have no distressing news this time around and everybody seems to be hanging in there. Since political opinions are not kosher for this publication, I have been instructed not to comment on all the wonderful things happening in our country and abroad. That’s probably a good thing, since there’s not enough room to print even some of it. Suffice to say that we’re all still here and we should consider that a victory in itself.

As a member of “L” Company Rangers, I have found it easier over the years to stay in touch with my Ranger comrades. I do not exaggerate when I say that reunions with my former comrades hold far more importance with me than high school (or college) reunions. I don’t put them ahead of family gatherings, but it’s close.

From last I heard; our next “L” Company Ranger reunion will probably (possibly?) be in the Las Vegas area. Since I’m only a four-hour drive from Sin City, that works out well for me and my wife Ilene. We are not degenerate gamblers, but we’ve been known to blow a few hundred bucks here and there in various casinos. All in good fun, of course. This change in venue was supposedly due to the lack of adequate facilities (e.g., serviceable hotels) in and around Dahlenega, Georgia.

I would’ve enjoyed revisiting Dahlenega. I hadn’t been there since I was doing the Mountain phase of Ranger training way back when (1970). I remember that was my least favorite part of the three-phases of Ranger School. Actually, none of the three were what you would call “fun.” Mountain climbing really wasn’t my thing, although I did a lot of climbing later in the mountains of I Corps. At least I didn’t have to use snap-links and pitons.

Las Vegas has not yet been confirmed for this occasion. The exact location is still being discussed. All I know at this point is that wherever the reunion is held, it will probably be in April of 2025.

I was pleasantly surprised by receiving a phone call from retired Lt. General Dave Ohle a few weeks ago. He had heard I was in the process of getting a book published about “L” Company during his time there and was interested in discussing some of the particulars. I found him to have an excellent memory for events that transpired over fifty years ago. Our conversation lasted well over an hour, and we were able to catch up on a lot regarding the history of the company and also what was happening in today’s world. I’ve had a few lengthy conversations with the general over the years, but none as long and as in-depth as this one. Suffice to say that General Ohle is in good spirits and living the



dream. He even spends a lot of time down in Mexico now since he purchased a house there (Cabo San Lucas, I believe).

Ohle was a graduate of the West Point class of 1968. The late Ranger officers Lt. James Leroy Smith and Lt. Paul C. Sawtelle who were both KIA in 1971, were graduates of the West Point class of 1969. That class is having a reunion in Washington D.C. to commemorate the fallen this coming October and the details are already in the planning stages.

There were 18 men from that class who were killed-in-action in Vietnam. Back in 2014, members of the class of 1969 had their first reunion to specifically honor these men at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in D.C.

There were a number of Company “L” Rangers who attended this event (including myself) and it was a rewarding experience. General Ohle was

also in attendance, and he literally knew everyone there. He graciously introduced us to all and, although we were not members of the West Point class of 1969, we were treated as honored guests by everyone in attendance. Well over 300 people were at this event. Others there from Company “L” were Gib Halverson, Ellis McCree, Nick Gibbone and Chuck Rupe. After listening to several speeches at the Wall itself, we were invited back to the home of the former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Robert Kimmitt, in Alexandria, Virginia, for a gathering. A member of the class of 1969, Kimmitt himself was just another junior infantry officer in Vietnam who got wounded several times during some serious action.

Kimmitt was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam and later, after he left Vietnam, was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he completed Jumpmaster school and qualified as a Master Parachutist. He stayed in the service and made it all the way to Major General. Then he went into politics.

Besides being our ambassador to Germany, he also held the position of Deputy Secretary to the Treasury under both President Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. I got the opportunity to talk to Ambassador Kimmitt and found him to be a down-to-earth fellow who has happy to discuss his Vietnam tour with a fellow veteran.

I have included a photo of Kimmitt for this article while he was in his brigadier general’s uniform. I have also included a photo from the 2014 event itself. It was taken by Ranger Nick Gibbone during the ceremony at the D.C. Wall.

Continued on the next page



Robert Kimmitt



Gabriel Trujillo



Lt. James L. Smith West Point photo



L-R: Chuck Rupe, Ellis McCree, ret. Gen. Ohle, Gib Halverson and myself on the extreme right). There are also some photos of Lt. Smith and Lt. Sawtelle as well as Warrant Officer Richard Concannon, the pilot who perished with Smith during the aborted rescue attempt of SP4 Gabriel Trujillo in February of 1971.



Capt. Ohle and Lt. Smith



Lt. Sawtelle



Concannon

The photo of Concannon is from his high school years. He was not far removed from those days when he died with Smitty and five others including Ranger medic Steve England and Trujillo on that tragic evening. Prior to the accident, Concannon had rescued many a Ranger team in trouble and was well known in our

company. Trujillo had an older brother (Paul) who was KIA in Vietnam later that same year. I have also included Ranger Trujillo's photo. He and Paul were one of 31 sets of brothers who were killed in the war. May they all rest in peace.

In the meantime, as the information regarding our next reunion begins to emerge, I will definitely get all the latest news out to our members in (hopefully) a timely manner. Anyhow...I hope you are all enjoying life and in good health and spirits. As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Charlie Reilly



P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JERRY YONKO

This adventure began in May 2023 when we were in Washington, D.C. to lay our brother Terry Rodrick to rest in Arlington. Papa Company Rangers and family members meet at the Vietnam wall to pay tribute to Terry. As I was walking up to the group, I saw someone that I knew but could not remember who he was, when we were within arm's length of each other we both said I know you to each other. We both identified ourselves as Eddie Oglesby and Tom Jones, we were teammates 52 years ago and now reunited. I cannot explain the feeling and joy felt of seeing a teammate after so many years. The last time I saw Eddie he was being Medevacked. While we were in DC, Eddie asked me if I would like to go hog hunting in South Carolina and I said hell ya! He said you won't embarrass me, will you? I said have I ever embarrassed you, to which he replied you were a lot younger then.



SOWW selects hunters from those that are nominated, and I was privileged to be selected as a hunter this year along with nine other operators. This is a once in a lifetime experience, all of us were given an orange cap to wear at all times so everyone knew we were VIP/hunters. Each hunter also received a 12-inch fixed blade knife made by Mil-Tac Knives, Rockwall, Texas, a Grizzly Cooler, several t-shirts and hats, electronic ear protection, 5.11 head lamp and Energizer head lamp, Otis Tactical universal gun cleaning kit, Glock Military Knife, Glock pistol cleaning mat, and Brownells Discreet rifle case.



Tom (TJ) and Eddie meeting at the Wall 52 years later

Anyway, I got invited to the Special Operations Wounded Warriors (SOWW) hog hunt. SOWW is a self-supporting organization that gives back 97cents of every dollar for getaways for warriors that are or were at the tip of the spear.

SOWW Mission Statement "Providing unique outdoor experiences and targeted therapeutic treatments to the deserving men and women of our U.S. Special Operations Forces that have sustained wounds in battle and/or in significant service to our Country.

I got to the Hog Hunt early, arriving Monday to help set up and spend time with my old teammate. Eddie and I met several of his friends and dog handlers as well as other operators as they arrived. Monday's supper was a low country boil (crab legs, shrimp, sausage, corn, and potatoes) prepared by Skinner and his lovely wife Kate, great food and great folks.

We were housed in very nice RVs at the SOWW forward operating base, with a comfortable clubhouse, featuring a full bar, showers with hot/cold running water and several crappers. In addition, they brought in a trailer with four portable showers and had several port-a-potties on the property and a large fire pit for Ranger TV.



RVs

Ladies from the area donated their time to take care of and help with our meals and our happy hour hors d'oeuvres. Several local restaurants provided our evening meals. The food was excellent, and the ladies and bartenders treated everyone like royalty.

You may ask yourself what is so special about this hog hunt well let me tell you. We hunted with dogs that chased the hogs and got them at bay, then we went through the briar and brambles to get close where a catch dog was released. Upon reaching the hog a brother would grab the hind legs, the dogs were pulled off and the hunter would stick the hog with the knife, killing it. The knives from Mil-Tac are super sharp and will kill a hog quickly when stuck in the right area behind the front leg, just below the armor plate, inserted upward and sliced down.

Continued on the next page

These knives are so sharp and worked just as they should, on my first pig I almost cut it in half, saw its heart.

The Hunt Day One:

At 0700 hours eight pickups pulling 16 side by side ATVs on trailers convoyed to our first hunting site which was an abandoned golf course, the grass was about chest high, and the cart paths were still usable. After the ATVs were unloaded, we loaded up and drove into the center of the area and the dogs were released, this is when it got crazy as hunters and helpers took off in several directions following the dogs, the handlers followed their dog's location with GPS collars on them and the handlers also used radios and phones to stay in touch with other handlers. I was with a gentleman called Squirrel following his dogs. The AO was large with two large canals on the back side. Well, the hogs and the dogs didn't get the memo not to cross them, which meant we had to get to the other side. The water was waist to chest high in most areas, Squirrel found us a place where it was only about two feet deep, so we didn't get that wet. Now on the other side we caught up with the dogs which had a pig at bay, after running and busting through the brush, briars and brambles we got to the pig. The idea is to have someone grab the rear legs and for the hunter to stick the hog just below its protective shield, with an upward motion and then slice down killing the hog. I stuck the pig with my knife and almost cut it in half, these knives are super sharp, I saw the heart and stuck it for the coup de grace.

Within 10 minutes the dogs had another hog at bay, I was the only orange hat in the area, so we were off running along the canal to get to them (that's what I said running), I was really sucking air as we broke into the under growth, again very thick. The chase dogs had a big boar hog at bay, the catch dog was released, the boar caught this dog just below its protective vest cutting it before I was able to stick it, killing it quickly. This hog weighed in at 228 pounds, the biggest hog taken during the hunt.

Another handler had a pig at bay over 1000 yards from us, we crossed the canal again and took off to get to him. We cut back through the golf course, coming out on a road, ran down it to another road, finally getting to where they were at. This area was in pine trees and the going was easier, again I was the only hunter there so when I got to the pig, I stuck it killing it quickly.



Day 1 Boar

It was about 1000 hours, so we went back to the golf course parking lot where we met other hunters and handlers. Eddie who was running the show told me that if I killed another hog, he was going to take my knife away. I spent the rest of the day fol-

lowing and helping other hunters, I really didn't do much as the younger operators took care of what help was needed.



The brush was tough

After about 1500 hours we loaded up and went back to the FOB to get cleaned up, eat hors d'oeuvres, socialize and get to know other operators. A great time was had by all!

Day Two:

0700 hours we were off again in light rain; we went to a large field and hunted the backside of it because of the rain. Again, I just followed others and helped where I could. In the group I was in we had an operator that had lost a leg and was getting around on crutches. The dog's got a medium size hog at bay, Squirrel and another volunteer got it down and hog tied it. They then carried it to a dry area that was surrounded by water, nothing being said another operator told our wounded operator to get on his back and he carried him over to where we waited. We got him into position, then untied the hog and grabbed its hind legs so the wounded warrior could stick it. The look on his face was overwhelming, this was a once in a lifetime moment for him and me. This is what SOWW is all about!

About 1100 hours the rain had stopped, and the decision was made to go to a different area. The ATVs were loaded up and we were off. We ended up in a wooded area at the end of a road that had been corned for about a month and had good hog signs. The dogs were set loose and off they went. I stayed around in the staging area with two dog handlers, a volunteer and another hunter. It wasn't long before the dogs were over 1000 yards away, so we loaded into the ATVs and took off to find them.

Continued on the next page

We had to get on a paved road and go about a mile and turned onto a road that led into a small, developed area, houses on one side of the road. We got to about 50 feet off a road barrier with a stop sign. Within minutes a hog ran by, then another and another, the two dogs ran by chasing them. We loaded back up and hit the road driving back the way we had come and turned into an upscale subdivision. We drove around to a wooded area behind the houses and heard the dogs with a hog squealing at bay. The other hunter, a handler and I jumped out and headed into the woods, I was called back to get leashes for the dogs. I got back into the game just as the hunter was sticking the hog. I put the leashes on the dogs and the handler took one, I took the other and the hunter drug the hog out of the woods. The easiest way was toward the houses so that's the way we went, about 20 feet from the edge of the woods a resident was in his back yard asking what we were doing. We explained that we were with SOWW right down the road and we were hunting hogs. He said he heard the hog squealing and then nothing and wondered what we shot it with, he was told that we were hunting with knives, and would it be ok if we came out in his back yard. His response was with a knife, sure come on out, so we did. He greeted us as we came around his privacy fence to his front yard, where he greeted us bare footed. The dogs were loaded into their kennels and the pit bulls loaded on top of the kennels. We chatted with him explaining about SOWW and the hunt. He was very cordial and when he was told that I was a Vietnam Ranger he walked over to me shook my hand and said you guys got treated like shit when you came home, I'm very sorry about that, welcome home. It caught us all off guard and was so genuine it humbled all of us. We chatted a little more then took off and drove out of the subdivision, a couple of guys that were walking looked at us funny, but a couple that were walking looked at us like we were from outer space. I guess us all came-
 oed up with catch dogs on top of the kennels was just too much for them. We got back to the staging area, and it was decided to call it a day so everyone headed back to base camp. I went with Eddie and Skinner again to scout for hog signs in different areas and put out corn where we found good hog signs for the next day's hunt. Back at base camp it was more of food and socializing.

Day 3:

0700 departed by convoy to another large corn field and woods. I was with Squirrel again and can't tell you much about the hog hunting because a couple of dogs took off chasing hogs and ran so far that they were off the handlers GPS systems. So, we were busy trying to find the dogs. The owner of the dogs and Squirrel stayed in radio contact and guessed where the dogs might have run off to chasing hogs. We searched all over the area for the dogs, even building an area up in one of the ditches so we could cross. Squirrel had a thrilling ride through that ditch as he was coming out the other side the left front wheel was at least three feet off the ground and the back of the ATV was sliding back and forth, but Squirrel kept giving her the gas and landed on the other side of the ditch. Success! We hunted for them for about an-

other hour and half before we located one of them and got it into the cage. It wasn't long after that the owner radioed that he had the other one, so we met up on one of the fire roads and took a little break and discussed what to do. In true Ranger fashion the decision was made to let the dogs go and try to get another hog as myself and another hunter were there. It wasn't long before the dogs were barking and a hog was squealing so off, we went into the woods, the vegetation was not as bad this time because there were several pine trees. The dogs had the hog cornered in a pool of water, off into the water I went never thinking that the red clay in the bottom would keep me from moving, the other hunter had the hogs hind legs and I fell on my ass as I tried to move forward, I finally got a hold on the hair on the hogs back and pulled myself up so I could stick the hog and Squirrel kept saying damn it don't stick the dog. I stuck the boar good on the right side and the holder asked me to stick him again on the left side which I did. It turned out to be a good boar with nice cutters.

When we got back to the ATV two guys helped me get off my right boot which had 5 gallons of water in a 2-gallon boot. This was the end of our hunting as we went back and linked up with the other hunters and headed back to base camp.

About 1700 hours everyone gathered in the club house where several of the volunteers were recognized for their contributions of time and service over the past 12 years to SOWW, each was given a folded flag in a display case, not only was our Eddie recognized for this but also for organizing the hog hunt for the past 12 years with a nice plaque. I received a certificate for a Glock pistol for having killed the largest hog, which I killed on day one. Then we chowed down on some great food, adult beverages and outstanding socializing.

Goodbyes were said by those leaving early on Sunday morning as many of us stayed up late Saturday night.

Sunday morning, I said my goodbyes to those that I had missed the night before and got on the road heading home.

It was a great honor and a very humbling experience for me to be surrounded by such like-minded warriors. In greeting me, several others voiced their gratitude that those of us that came before them from LRRP, and Vietnam Rangers, saying we had set the standards that our special operation units are founded on today.

Many thanks to Special Operations Wounded Warriors, it's officers and board along with all the great folks that I had the privilege of meeting. It was a once in a lifetime experience. I'll be back next year to help again! RLTV

Hog Hunt Pictures of the hunt are on the following page



Day three Boar



Eddie and Tom (TJ)



TJ, Jon, Guy



Eddie, Eddie Jr (Squirrel), TJ

rangersbreakfast@75thrra.org

Looking for a Ranger/Special Forces breakfast nearby?

Get the latest information by emailing the people in the know!



Ranger Outreach Center

- A Mission of St. Luke Church Military Ministry -



BIG 5 for the Ranger Community



1 - DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We kicked off 2024 with a bang at the Ranger Outreach Center in beautiful uptown Columbus, GA! We filled the ROC with our final tenant organization, All About Fitness Family. AAFF is a Veteran-led, community-based fitness and wellness organization modeling servant leadership in South Columbus. We were humbled to be a part of the recent Ranger for Life Symposium in early February. Rangers surely do lead the way in transition thanks to a caring network of Ranger alumni. Our ROC Solid Gym opened just prior to the Three Rangers Foundation Mentor Meet-Up. The facility is a game-changer for our mission to Recruit, Train, and Deploy disciples of Jesus Christ. - Matt 7:24 - Build your house on the rock, Tony



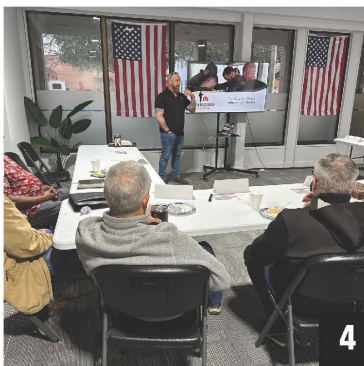
2 - RANGER FOR LIFE SYMPOSIUM

More than 200 Fort Moore Rangers received transition education and assistance on Feb. 1 and 2. Events included a question and answer session with Rangers within 18 months of ETS, engagement with leaders SGT and above, and an industry day featuring more than 40 industry professionals.



3 - ROC SOLID GYM OPENING

ROC community partners gathered to formally open the ROC Solid Gym on Thursday, Feb.1. We are grateful for the work of Veteran-owned Drexel Hamilton, who made this dream a reality. We look forward to hosting Hero WODs in the near future!



4 - CHRISTIAN VETERAN LEADERS - THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

The ROC hosts a monthly Christian Veteran Leaders of Columbus breakfast on the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 7 a.m. February's Spotlight presenter was Eric Brew, GA director of Warriors Set Free. He shared his ministry's impact and opportunities to get involved. Breakfast is provided for all CVL attendees. If you are ever in town, let us know so we can reserve you a seat.

5 - FREE MEETING SPACE

The ROC is a wonderful resource for active duty, veterans, and Christian organizations needing meeting space for routine get-togethers and events. Let the ROC be a blessing to your ministry by providing a meeting space free of charge! Contact Candice at candice@gallantfew.org for room availability.



The Ranger Outreach Center recruits, trains, and deploys disciples of Christ through a team of veteran support organizations dedicated to enriching the lives of the Chattahoochee Valley military community.

RECRUITING. Participating in events and creating partnerships to share the love of Christ with the community.

TRAINING. Providing Biblically-based education programs to share God's truth and strengthen believers' faith.

DEPLOYING. Exhibiting the love of Christ through service and discipleship activities.



75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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